

A  
View From  
Thunderbolt

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prophetstown Centennial 1859-1959



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## A View From Thunderbolt

Three miles southwest of Prophetstown rises the highest point in this area — an elevation overlooking Rock River, our fertile fields and our beloved Prophetstown. To us, living on the plains, she is a mountain called Thunderbolt.

The name Thunderbolt is synonymous with the Indian lore of our town. It was at her summit that the Chief Blackhawk camped for several days with more than 500 painted warriors preparing an attack designed to recover thousands of acres of Indian lands so recently taken from him.

The beautiful Rock River and fertile fields remain; the view from Thunderbolt changes. It is the record of these changes that is presented here. This is not a complete history of Prophetstown, but is a book dedicated to all men and women whose spirit and determination throughout the years contributed to the social, religious and economic progress of the city of which we are so proud.

In recording this changing scene we allude to many names and places. There are many persons unnamed who have made important contributions. These omissions are not intentional — all persons, named and unnamed, have enlarged THE VIEW FROM THUNDERBOLT.

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| VLT=Int'l Victory Ltr.   |

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L. K. Groharing  
Mayor of Prophetstown, Ill.

Through Congressman Leo Allen I have learned of the 100th Anniversary of the Village of Prophetstown and it is a pleasure to join in the observance of this event. Located on good land and settled by enterprising folk Prophetstown has prospered over the years. Because of your towns fine traditions and its community life, The View from Thunderbolt looks most promising for the future.

Congratulations and Best Wishes.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

## From the Prophet: Prophetstown

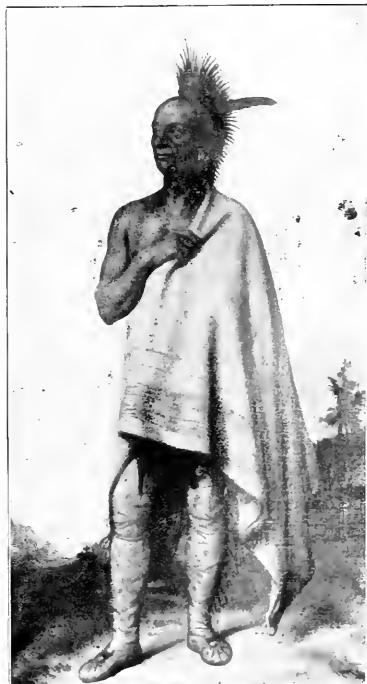
(Wabo—meaning white or light colored; kie-siek—meaning sky or heaven.) Wa-bo-kie-siek was generally known as White Cloud, a prophet or medicine man. He ruled his village on Rock River 35 miles from the mouth of that river at the site of the present village of Prophetstown.

His mother was a Sauk and his father was a Winnebago, which tribe seemed to predominate in this area. His relatives to both tribes gave him greater influence.

Those who knew the Prophet and were associated with him have left a written description of his personal appearance. He was described as being six feet tall, stout and athletic of figure, with a countenance in keeping with a militant disposition. He had a broad, large mouth, a short blunt nose, large full eyes, thick lips, with full suit of hair. He wore a white headdress which rose several inches above the top of his head, the whole exhibiting a deliberate savageness—not that he seemed to delight in honorable war or fight but marking him as the priest of assassination or secret murder.

White Cloud had much native ability, shrewdness, and power of oratory.

George Catlin made several sketches of the Prophet. He sent some of them to a noted artist by the name of Healy in Paris, who made the original of the composition which now hangs in the Whiteside County Courthouse in Morrison.



# Our Native Background

It is felt by many people that they must look to far way places for items of great interest. For instance, Italy for music; Greece for art and legend; or to Egypt for antiquity. However, all the arts and delights may be found, in some form, at their very doors, if eyes and ears are in tune with the surroundings.

There is music in the voices of children at play, the song of bird and the rustling of the leaves. Arts and legends concerning our community are numerous. There are legends of the red man, who lived and hunted along the river, Sinnissippi, known today as the Rock River. As for antiquity, one has but to notice Nature's age-old footsteps to find shore lines of ancient seas, those seas whose surges beat on the shores, when only reptiles and mere beginnings of animal life inhabited the then giant tropical forests.

Deep in the soil are buried ancient forests, which have come down to us since the world was young. Vast beds of peat are to be found in this locale which show the method nature uses to build her great coal beds.

The story of man here reads like a romance and takes us back to the misty past, beyond the times of recorded history.

The mound builders left their monuments, which were great oval shaped mounds. They served as burial places of the people and their artifacts. Such mounds are to be found in groups along local rivers and streams.

The Rock River valley was occupied by the Sauks, Foxes and Winnebagoes, the latter being a tribe of the Dakotas. They were once a powerful race but were finally defeated and almost destroyed by wars. They were allies of the British in the War of 1812.

In the early 1800's there were fourteen Indian villages scattered along Rock River. The principal one was at Prophet's town.

Beginning in 1829 and 1830, a great effort was being made to remove the Indians from these parts to lands west of the Mississippi River. Black Hawk, chief of the Sauks, didn't want to give up this lovely valley of the Rock River with its fertile fields. It is said that he had 800 acres under cultivation. However, the continued effort on the white man's part, finally brought about the great conflict known as the Black Hawk War. The war was waged under the leadership of the great Indian chief, Black Hawk, and his untiring aide-de-camp, Wa-bo-kie-shick, the Prophet. The Indians were defeated and agreed to the transfer of lands according

to the treaty. However, Black Hawk repudiated the treaty. Returning with a large band of warriors, he began a second war—again under advice of the Prophet and the promise of his aid.

The Prophet continued to encourage Black Hawk to oppose the whites by telling him that all of his braves, who had met death previously, would rise up from their graves and join him in the fray against the enemy.

It is said that when Black Hawk came here that spring, the Prophet encamped him at what is now known as Thunderbolt Hill, near Portland. (The hill was named for Chief Thunderbolt.) The Prophet, knowing that war was inevitable, did not wish to have his village involved. Nevertheless, early in the second war the Prophets' village was burned by government volunteers under Gen. Samuel White-side, for whom our county was named.

Following the Rock River, the Federal Army trailed Black Hawk into Wisconsin at the final battle of the Black Hawk War, the Indian forces were annihilated. Black Hawk, the Prophet, and about twenty warriors escaped and fled. The army ordered some of the Winnebago braves to capture Black Hawk and the Prophet. They overtook the fugitives near the Dalles of the Wisconsin River. The two chiefs were confined until 1833 in Fortress Monroe. The president ordered their release and they were returned to their own country.

Black Hawk died in an Indian village on the Des Moines River in Iowa in 1838. He had been an intelligent and brave chief, causing the United States government much trouble.

The great spirit long ago sang the death of the Prophet. The incidents of his life and career are numerous. He had been a kind and generous friend to many a way-faring white man. He had recovered many stray horses from the Indians and restored them to their rightful owners, without asking recompense.

In 1837 the Sauks and most of the Foxes were removed to an Indian Reservation in Kansas. It was there that the Prophet died in 1841.

After the Black Hawk War there was very little Indian trouble in this locality. In the year 1835 there were about three or four hundred Indians (stragglers) living near the mouth of Coon Creek. They were neighborly and traded with the White men, but slowly took their leave and went westward.

Legend has it that the early settlers were amazed at the sight of small Indian children run-

ning from their dwellings barefoot and sliding across the ice on Coon Creek—then hurrying back into their homes for warmth.

One woman said that her ancestors, as children, played with the little Indians. One day an Indian baby was taken to a white child's home where it was bathed and dressed in white baby's clothing. Later the baby became ill and the incident nearly incited the natives to the warpath!

The red man was not always hostile from choice. He should not be too severely censured, for he had received much bad treatment at the hands of the whites. After all, he was fighting for the only home he had ever known. He would not have been human had he not fought to the last ditch. Even in his last throes of desperation, he neither asked nor gave quarter. If we were put to the same today, it is almost certain that we would not give up this verdant valley without the same tenacious resistance.

The records of Earl Ellithorpe, early owner of the Jim Fisk farm, say that during his early residence there, two Indian families came one fall and stayed a year, camping most of the time across the river. While living there, an Indian child died. Often in evening the squaw was heard wailing and mourning for her child. When winter came these families moved into a grove and peeled black walnut bark to use in making wigwams.

A son of a Portland pioneer related that when he attended Portland school more Indians passed the school daily than white persons.

Squaws with papooses on their backs would sometimes go into the school house to get warm. They set the papooses against the wall. The Indians never entered a home or the school without first peeping through the window.

The Indians were peaceable. Often little Indian boys came to school, not to enter into class-work, but to play during noon intermission. They enjoyed wrestling, running, and target practice with bows and arrows. Sometimes the white boys traded part of their lunch with the Indian boys for bows and arrows.

The Indian children were more quiet and reserved than their white friends. They talked mostly by signs and motions.

Indians were persistent beggars, begging mostly for meat, particularly pork. When they were given apples, potatoes, etc., in a pan, they always insisted it should be heaping full. It is said an early housewife gave a chicken to some begging Indians, and they stripped off the feathers before killing it.

The following account was copied from an old newspaper clipping written by Mrs. Augustus Wildman, a former local teacher.

"Of historical importance, locally, is the fact

that the only hostility of the Black Hawk War, in which Capt. Abraham Lincoln's company participated, was when the Winnebago village was destroyed at the Prophet's town. He was in command of one of the four companies of the Fourth Regiment of Illinois Volunteers.

"There are no records of the exact part played by the twenty-three-year-old Lincoln at the burning of the Prophet's town. However, he is known to have been one of the volunteers who set the Indian village up in flames. For some reason, historians have failed to mention the fact that it was Lincoln's only participation in actual Black Hawk War hostilities.

"Some authorities state that the Illinois Volunteers spent the night at the present site of Prophetstown, after burning the Indian village. If this were true, Capt. Lincoln was one of them."

#### Forming of Prophetstown Township

Prophetstown township originally formed a part of Crow Creek precinct. In March, 1837, while Whiteside County was still a part of Ogle County the county commissioners included all the territory in the county south of Rock River, in a precinct called Prophetstown.

In 1840 the recent precinct was divided into three precincts called Rapids, Prophetstown, and Portland. Prophetstown precinct then embraced the present township and the western half of Hume and Tampico until 1850, when the county adopted the township organization law.

Commissioners were appointed to give names and boundaries to townships. After several changes of names and boundaries, the name of Prophetstown was applied to the township as it now exists.

Prophetstown township contains 30,191 acres of land, being considerably in excess of any other township in the county. The general surface of the land is level and the soil is rich and fertile—a veritable "Garden of Eden."



# Early Settlers Endure Fear and Hardships

*Mists of time obscure the view of our earliest history and families. From records available we see the following families being the founders of our community.*

One of the first white settlers in the Prophets-town area was Asa Crook who moved here from Michigan and started farming in June, 1834. Mr. Crook was elected Justice of the Peace in 1835 and appointed Postmaster in 1836. After living for several years in a log house, Mr. Crook and his family moved into a large two story frame house. Because this was the largest house between Dixon and Rock Island, it was used as an inn. Part of this building still stands at the site of the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Waagencht.

John W. Stakes, a native of Ohio, arrived in Prophetstown in September, 1834. Mr. Stakes was the father of the first child born in Prophetstown—Mary Ann Stakes, born October 19, 1835. Mary Ann's birth was also that of the first white child in



**Mrs. John W. Stakes**   **Mary A. Stakes McKnight**

the township and the first white girl baby born in Whiteside County. John Stakes ran the ferry across Rock River for several years before moving to Union Grove Precinct. He died in Morrison in 1861.

The first settlement on Benton Street was made by Harry Smith. He and William Hill had come all the way from Rutland County, Vermont, with teams in 1825. Mr. Hill was a carpenter and wheelwright

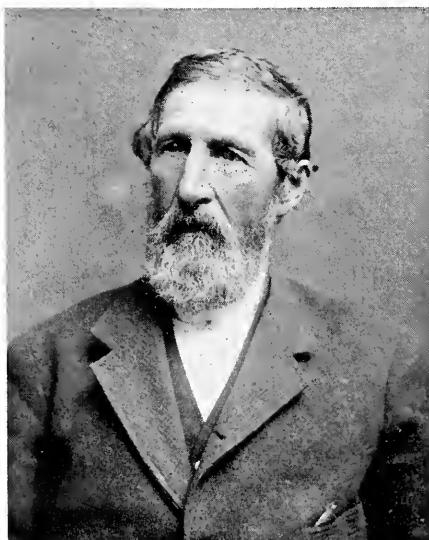


by trade but became a successful farmer. He was instrumental in the construction of the first log school building in Prophetstown Township in 1836.

Marvin Frary of Massachusetts made his claim between the villages of Prophetstown and Portland in 1835. In addition to farming, he was engaged for a time in the distilling business in Portland.

J. Sperry Johnson moved to Prophetstown from Vermont in 1835. He operated a large farm in the southwest corner of the township where he lived until his death in 1876.

Nathaniel G. Reynolds arrived in Prophetstown in June, 1835, having crossed the prairie from Chi-



**Edward S. Gage**

1830 on an Indian trail. He was engaged in farming for many years and was elected County Commissioner in 1839 and County Judge in 1849. Mr. Reynolds moved to Sterling in 1860 and died there in 1865.

Prophetstown's first wedding was the marriage of Isaac Colin Southard and Almira Hill in 1836. Mr. Southard had moved here in the same year from Vermont and operated a large farm on Washington Street. Four children were born to this couple.



Mrs. Edward S. Gage

Other arrivals that year were Thompson F. Clark, Edward S. Gage, Joshua F. Walker and Lewis Brown.

Among the settlers who came to Prophetstown in 1837 were Freeman J. Walker, William R. McKenzie, Harmon Smith, John S. Warner, Ashley Booth, Calvin Williams and John Farnum.

Another newcomer in 1837 was Alanson Stowell. In the Bent-Wilson "History of Whiteside County" there is an account of his wife which brings out the hardships of the 1837 housewives:

"In the early days of the settlement there were no mills nearby to grind wheat and corn, necessitating the settlers to resort to hand

mills when they wanted flour or corn meal. Neither were these mills very plenty. An incident in connection with the trouble in getting corn ground at that time is related by Mrs. Stowell, formerly Annette Nichols. She at one time carried a half bushel of corn on her back to Sampson Ellithorpe's, to be ground, Mr. Ellithorpe being the happy possessor of a hand mill. After she had transformed the corn into meal, she took Earl Ellithorpe, then about two years old, on one shoulder, the meal on the other, a small babe in her arms, and with the other child, a little girl, now Mrs. Dr. Donaldson, of Morrison, hanging to her dress, crossed the creek on a fallen log. It needed strong nerve and a steady one to perform that feat, and our pioneer had both. Buckwheat ground in a common coffee-mill, and baked into cake, was also a staple diet. Grain, however, was plenty, and potatoes excellent, the old Nurchannocks being the favorite variety, so with appetites such as auge only can create, the settlers did not mind the quality as much as they did the quantity.

Erastus G. Nicols also came to Prophetstown in 1837 and settled on the bank of Coon Creek near the confluence with Rock River. The next year he built a sawmill here which almost ruined him financially as his losses exceeded \$8,000. In 1840, he was one of three who contracted to dig the canal around the Rock River Rapids, beginning the work at Rock Falls. He was the first Postmaster when a separate post office was established at Prophetstown in 1844. He died of smallpox the next year.

Coming to Illinois in 1837, David Underhill remained for a while at a place near Rockford. In September that year, he paddled down Rock River in a canoe to Prophetstown. He made his first claim on Benton Street and later moved to Jefferson Corners.

William T. Minchin, who moved here in October, 1837 made his claim on Washington St. near Jefferson Corners. In 1844, his improvements were destroyed by tornado. He was elected clerk of the Village Council after Prophetstown was incorporated in 1859.

On the first day of June in 1837 Jabez Warner with two of his sons, came up Rock River on a flat boat carrying a stock of goods. They stopped at Prophetstown and found that Daniel Crocker had just recently left the village. Mr. Crocker had operated what is thought to be the first store in the county. The store was opened in a log cabin on the bank of the river in 1836. Mr. Crocker later added a sort of frame building made of hewn timber and covered with split clapboards. Mr. Warner moved his goods into the same building. He formed a partnership with Simon Page and they increased their stock. There were many Indians here that year, and with the whites, made the business quite successful. Black Hawk's youngest daughter bought her wedding outfit from Mr. Warner. The next year

Mr. Page sold out to Mr. Warner who did not replenish his stock but turned to farming. Jabez Warner located in 1837 with his brother, John S. Warner who was the first white man with a family that settled on the present village plot.

Anthony J. Manson of St. Louis settled in Prophesystown in 1838 on the age of 19. He was later appointed postmaster. In 1852, he opened a small store and continued in this business until 1858. Mr. Manson was largely responsible for the construction of the railroad to Prophesystown. He was cashier of the First National Bank of Prophesystown when it was organized in 1872.

In 1838 Henry Olmstead came with his family to Prophesystown from Canada. Mr. Olmstead started a farm on Washington street road. His son, Oliver married Miss Eliza Hunt and the couple lived in a small cabin in Eight Mile, constructed of logs with a mud fireplace and chimney and was without windows. Their provisions were corn bread, bacon, pork and potatoes. The place was then in reality a howling wilderness the wolves keeping chorus during the night in the surrounding timber. In 1839 they moved to Washington Street. At one time some necessary article was wanted by his wife for the household. He walked to Albany, a distance of twenty miles. Not finding it, he went to Fulton, eight miles further. He returned to Union Grove with the article and a distance of fifty miles altogether—a feat of devotion and endurance worthy of record. Another son, Daniel Olmstead, erected a fine brick house and lived in the same community until 1885.



Dr. Cora L. Reed



J. Sperry Johnson

Stephen Crook came from Vermont and made a claim above Coon Creek in 1837. He returned east for his family in 1838. In that winter he froze to death while coming home from Dixon's Ferry where he had gone to sell a butchered beef. When he and Robert Smith started for home it was almost dark and a light snow had obscured the track. They lost their way and took the Peoria trail. After they had travelled well out on the prairie, they discovered their mistake and struck across Hawley's Point. When they came to the creek it was partly frozen. In trying to cross it they lost one of their horses and became thoroughly drenched themselves. It seems that the people of Dixon had become alarmed about them, as the weather had turned extremely cold and the next morning started on their track. When they reached the wagon they found the two men frozen.

Robert Smith whose life was claimed on that ill-fated trip from Dixon had come here in 1838 and had settled near Jefferson Corners. He married Miss Christine Lee and they had two children, Richard and Lucy.

Woodward's Bluff is a well known place near Prophesystown. It was named for David Woodward who came from New York in 1837. He made claim in 1838 on the bluff and resided there his lifetime.



Mr. and Mrs. Elias C. Hutchinson

Elias C. Hutchinson a native of Pennsylvania, arrived in Prophesystown in 1838. Mr. Hutchinson was a carpenter and cabinetmaker and later engaged in the furniture trade in the village.



Elias Hutchinson Home



A. J. Mattson



Mrs. A. J. Mattson

Stephen D. Smith, coming from Vermont in 1839, settled on Washington Street on a farm later known as the Ezra Hill farm. Mr. Smith later located on a farm adjoining the village. In 1871, he sold his farm to his son, D. Kenerett Smith and Luther Ramsay who laid it out into the village lots. Most of the building was done on this land for some time. Stephen Smith had a daughter, Caroline, who was married to Luther Ramsay. His son, D. Kenerett, married Miss Alma Green and they lived here their entire lives.

Coming to Prophetstown in the spring of 1839, Obadiah W. Gage first worked at his trade as a shoemaker. Later he opened a farm on Jackson Street where he lived his lifetime. He was County Commissioner in 1848 and Supervisor of Prophetstown Township for six terms. He married Miss Mercy Farrington and had two children, Augusta and Euretta.

Johnson W. Gage came here in 1839 and was Township Assessor for fifteen years and School Director for ten years. He married Miss Emily Wilhams and they were the parents of ten children.

Moving to Prophetstown in 1839, Silas Martin remained but two years when he moved to Coloma where he died. His wife was killed in 1841 by the accidental discharge of a gun while she was out riding. Among their children was Harriet who married William O. McKenzie of Prophetstown.

Luther B. Ramsay, mentioned above in connection with building with Stephen Smith, also came from New York. He settled in town after farming in Hume for three years. He was also engaged in mercantile business in the village and manufactured cheese, having a splendid dairy farm in the center of the township. His son, Frank D. Ramsay, was a successful lawyer in Morrison.

Sampson Ellithorpe came from New York and settled in Hume Township. He sold his claim soon and moved west of Prophetstown to the farm where the James Fisk family now lives. He married Miss Eliza Wright and had two children, Earl, who spent his entire life here, and Bethiah, wife of Dr. H. C. Donaldson, one of the early practicing physicians of the county.

A blacksmith, Horace Annis, came here 1839. He was connected with the plow factory from 1854 to 1859 when he moved to Colorado. He married Mrs. Portia Nichols. Among their children was Julia, wife of Hamden Sturtevant, who remained in Prophetstown.

Lawrence Walls, a native of Ireland, came here in 1840 and purchased a farm east of Coon Creek, living there his lifetime. He married Philena Clark, and after her death, Clarissa White.

In 1835, Edward Wright came to Prophetstown in the company of William Perkins. At that time there were no houses on the south side of Rock River from Dixon down until the grove just above Prophetstown was reached, where there were two cabins. They made a claim adjoining Asa Crook's which took in the land on which the village of Prophetstown stood, and also enough of the bend of the river below to make what they considered two good-sized farms. In 1836 Mr. Wright sold his share to Jabez Warner.

Henry L. Tuller moved to Prophetstown in 1842 having been in the mercantile business at Albany before coming here. He purchased the store here of Frederick Dwight and did business in the county until 1848, when he moved to Peru, Illinois.

Jeduthan Seely, Jr. settled in Prophetstown in 1836. He married Mariba Foy and among their children who remained in Prophetstown were Celestia, wife of E. Ballou, and Tamson, wife of Jones Nichols.

Nathan Thompson came here in 1843 and was in business his lifetime in Prophetstown. He was connected with Andrew Tuller as a dealer in General merchandise. He was engaged with William Pratt and others in digging county ditches. He was influential in all railroad enterprises from the start of the first project until the completion of the first road through the village. Also, he was president of the First National Bank.



Lucy Gage Tracy



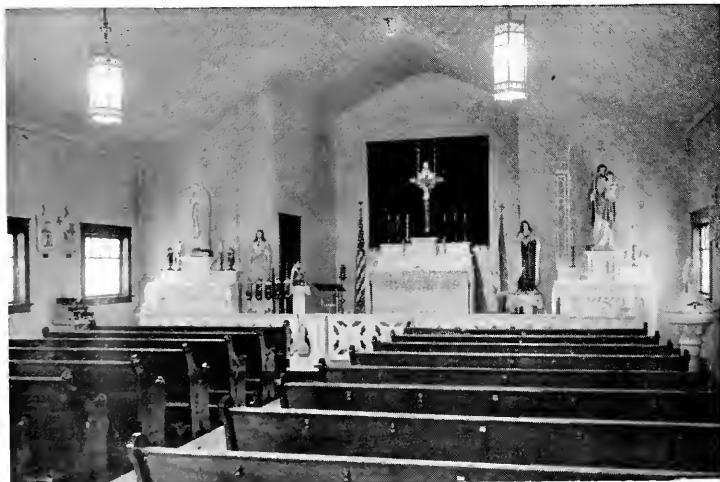
M. V. Seeley

Alexander G. Thompson came here in 1838 and settled on Jackson Street. He married Almeda Gault and had six children. One son, George, died while in the service at New Orleans during the Civil War.



The following priests have administered to the needs of the parish:

|                               |                                    |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Father J. V. Walsh 1917-1920  | Father David Murphy 1927-1933      |
| Father John Egan 1920-1921    | Father Ambrose Weitekamp 1933-1946 |
| Father Frank Keenan 1921-1927 | Father John W. Vaughn 1946-1957    |
| Father Robert Donavan 1957-   |                                    |



ST. CATHERINE PARISH



Sol Seeley



A. J. Warner

William Thompson came to Prophetstown with his brother Alexander in 1838. He remained here until 1866 when he moved to Iowa. He married Mary Cleveland and six children were born to this couple.

There are many other names important in the history of Prophetstown—names such as Porter, Dickinson, Newton, Emery, Hull, Fenn, Green, Baldwin. In fact names of every family living here has left its imprint on the development of the city. Realizing this, we have written only of the early families whose histories have been recorded.



Eva Emery Dye

Eva Emery Dye was born in Prophetstown on July 17, 1855, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Emery.

She attended Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio. She later became a teacher and a writer. She moved to Oregon City, Oregon, with her husband who was a lawyer. Besides raising a family, she found time to write many books, some of which are "Stories of Old Oregon", "The Conquest", "The Story of Lewis and Clark", and "Portland, Mt. Hood and the Columbia".

The following poem was written about 45 years ago by Louisa Woodworth, whose granddaughter, Mrs. Lloyd Simester lives in Dunkerton, Iowa.

#### To Prophetstown

When Indians roamed the Middle-West,

An old Rock River did it's best  
To help the Redman in his quest  
For food and transportation.

The Redman chose this goodly spot,  
To pitch their wigwams, as they ought.

Their chieftain was the "Prophet."  
Naught

Could give them information  
As could this prophet, wise and bold,  
Who ruled this place in days of old,  
and prophesied, so we are told,  
Before white immigration.

The Redman thought this prophet knew,  
And told them things that would  
come true.

And always looked upon him too,  
with eyes of adoration.

Then came the white man in his quest  
For trade and knowledge and the  
rest

Of things the white men loves the  
best;  
Some call it speculation.

They named the townsite Prophetstown

After the chief of great renown.  
Some think it should be called Profits-town.  
We think that's expectation.

The Prophet sleeps on Thunderbolt  
hill

Or did sleep there, they say, until  
Some white men sought his bones,  
to fill  
His head with information.  
Of what the Redman used to be,  
Before the white man came and  
he

# ECLIPSE LAWN MOWERS

## ECLIPSE WASP CHAIN SAWS



# THE ECLIPSE LAWN MOWER CO.

DIVISION OF BUFFALO-ECLIPSE CORPORATION

INCORPORATED 1902

Stepped down and out, no more to be,  
And what was their relation.  
But Prophetstown long since outgrew  
Her trading post and wigwams too.  
To old has given place to new.  
Far more than expectation.

Red man and white, who were then  
so fleet,  
Have crossed the river where the  
two worlds meet.  
Still others and others have followed  
their feet  
Grown tired of time's rotation

And Prophetstown may well be proud  
Of those who have passed on with  
the crowd.  
As well as those who are shouting  
loud,  
For modern innovation.  
Of those who wish the town to be,  
The town the people wish to see.  
And it is apparently,  
Quite close to realization.

Our factories are turning out,  
Some things our neighbors talk  
about  
And other things without a doubt,  
Are worth their imitation.

When nature seems to spill and spout  
And railroads kick their bridges  
out,  
Old Prophetstown's still on the route  
Of rapid transportation.

Our churches all men view with pride,  
Their doors are always open wide.  
And good will found on every side,  
Fulfills our expectation.

O, little place called Prophetstown,  
On maps you're not of much re-  
nown.  
But people here your head will crown,  
With goodly reputation.

Lou Woodworth

This poem was written by Mrs. Amanda Reynolds Smith, daughter of Nathaniel Gardner Reynolds. It was read by her at the Old Settlers meeting at Hamilton Grove in the year 1882.

Of eighteen hundred thirty-five, few are alive  
To relate the stories of frontier land,  
Of crossing the prairies through wet and cold,  
With naught but the lone tree to point out the road.

From Paw Paw Grove we struck across  
Rain setting in with fog on the morass,  
Darkness enveloped us on every hand,  
Slowly the night hours passed by our little band.

Morning dawned not a tree in sight,  
No kindling of fire, all water and mud.  
Provisions were cold, appetites very poor,  
This camping on prairie was not very good.

Father, mother, brothers three,  
Hours we watched for the lone, lone tree,  
Father in the water above his knees,  
Mother, she cried, "The tree I can't see".

Wagons three all fast in the mud,  
On the backs of horses we all of us mount,  
Every eye in search for the lone lost tree.  
With joy we are met by Mr. Farrington.

None can picture the feelings of this lost band,  
As we clasp the hand of this kindhearted man.  
He saved us from death or a night of distress.  
God grant his spirit in peace does rest.

On reaching Coon Creek--no other way,  
Water very cold, horses had to swim  
Wagon box floats, horses headed upstream.  
Now we are through looking for the lone tree.

Seated by the fire at Asa Crook's  
Mother clasps babe and says with her looks  
What can repay me for this torture of mind  
But to secure homes for this little group.

The winter was cold provisions were short,  
Seven families in all in a little log hut,  
Measles broke out, seventeen children by the way  
Sixty miles for a doctor and that wouldn't pay.

Indians calling by day and night  
Faces at windows, oh, horror, what a sight!  
Picture the children with beds on the floor,  
Trembling with fear at the sight of the warrior.

Well do I remember a warrior that came  
To visit the tribe of our little town,  
The cleaving of guns preparations were made  
To fight on the morrow if necessities need.

Brave, noble mothers, with babies in arms,  
Fathers seeking a country to make them a farm  
May their children arise and call them blessed,  
For braving the storms and making homes in the  
west.

All this has now passed away,  
With only a few to tell the sad tale.  
How they braved the storm and traveled along  
And made this a country of beauty and song.

Peace be to those who have thus passed away  
May they meet with us in spirit on anniversary day.  
Inspire our hearts with benevolence and love  
For all that have come since 1835.



## CLARKS LOCKER SERVICE

Where Meat is Cut

The Way YOU Like It.

Office Tele. 3171

Home 3191

## DARI-DELITE

Sundaes - Sodas - Milk Shakes

Malted Milks - Root Beer

Infra-Ray-Broiled Hamburgers

and

Other Sandwiches

## LAWRENCE'S

SERVING YOUR  
BANKING NEEDS

25 YEARS

1934-1959

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STERLING, ILLINOIS

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## THE PROPHETSTOWN TELEPHONE COMPANY

106 E. RAILROAD STREET

1903 • • • 1959

Not 100 years old, but has been furnishing  
the Town and Community with Telephone  
Service for Fifty-Six years.

# Early Pioneer's Struggle

*A vivid picture of life in these early times is recorded in the autobiography of N. G. Reynolds another early settler. Excerpts of this biography written in Eighteen hundred sixty are:*



Nathaniel G. Reynolds

. . . "I bid adieu again to aristocracy and took my journey from the far west on the 9th of Oct., 1833, with my family consisting of wife and five children. We came from Buffalo to Detroit by boat, from Detroit to Chicago. The roads were as bad as anyone would wish to see from Chicago to Rock River, was only Indian trail. Camped out two nights.

"Got along tolerably well until the 9th of November we had to cross the prairie from Infel Grove to where Prophetstown now is, forty-four miles with-

out a house or a road; the Lone Tree our only guide. I had three wagons, five horses and two yoke of oxen. We left at four o'clock a.m.; about nine o'clock it commenced raining, rained all day and all night. We traveled all day and I supposed reached half way—formed a hollow square with our wagons, put the horses and cattle in the center and crawled into the wagons. It rained and spit snow. Snow with a heavy wind from the northwest in the morning. At day break we harnessed up and proceeded on our journey.

"The rain had flooded the prairie in many places and made it so soft that my teams could not take our loads. I left one wagon and lightened the others. Had not proceeded over one-fourth mile when we got in another slough. It was raining and snowing and the teams altogether could not pull one wagon. We abandoned the wagons. Mrs. Reynolds got on one horse with the youngest child. I took two with me. We traveled until dark and had to swim Raccoon Creek which we did in safety and soon came to a cabin, and were made happy by refreshments and fire with a good sleep on the soft side of a hewed plank. Three days afterwards I returned for my wagons, found all right. I camped that night and returned next day. Cold increasing and fair prospect of winter setting in. Here I was with five horses, two yoke of oxen and seven dollars in cash. No hay or grain nor provisions (only what I had in my wagon) nearer than seventy miles, no roads nor bridges on the way.

Knoxville was Egypt for us, it being the nearest point we could get provisions.

"I started with the teams in company with one of my neighbors and a pilot for the land of corn. Swam Green River, Edwards River, big and little Pope creeks, and arrived safe, but on account of high water we could not return with any load until the water fell. We were weather bound for thirteen days. In the time I exchanged one span of horses



## DUGAN'S MILEAGE MART

We Give S & H Green Stamps.

ELDON ORLOWSKI

OWNER

PROPHETSTOWN, ILL.

TELEPHONE 3891



## BROWN'S MARKET

FULL LINE OF GROCERIES

MEAT by CUT and QUARTER

PHONE 3821

for such things as I wanted. In the meantime there were ten men with teams on the same errand as ourselves joined in, which was very acceptable. We loaded up and started, quite a respectable caravan.

"It was 18 miles to the first house or cabin. We crossed the two creeks in safety without any difficulty, altho the weather was excessive cold. Edwards River had fallen in consequence of the freeze that we thought we could ford it. The banks were so steep and frozen that one pair of horses could not hold one load down nor draw it up on the other side, so we coupled six yoke together and made fast to the hind ox with sufficient length of chain, and they eased the load down into the stream. Then we took the cattle across and they drew it up the other bank. In this way we succeeded in getting all over safe, except my load.

"In raising to the bank about half way up, the cattle broke the chain and my wagon ran back and upset my load into the river. We soon righted up the wagon and I put into the river and collected my load, (which was principally in barrels). I offered a good price for help but they refused and advised me to let it go downstream, that I should get my death by such exposure, but I could not spare the articles. I floated them to shore and put a chain around them and ran a pole through. Those on the shore with my help in the rear pulled them up the bank and we loaded up again and went on. It was three and a half hours from the time I went into the water before I reached a fire, and what is somewhat remarkable I did not freeze in any part, and everyone that was on the bank was frozen, some badly, but we succeeded in getting along finally, but had often to put all teams forward on one wagon.

"Came to Green River we had to unload and take our stuff over in a trough or canoe, swim our teams and fasten a rope to our wagons and pull them over as a seine is hauled. Then we had good going on the prairies, the sloughs all frozen solid. Arrived home well and hearty, having been about twenty-one days going seventy-five miles and back. Found at our cabin thirteen out of nineteen down with the measles: no doctor within thirty miles. All lived and got smart soon.

"Troubles do not come single. In a day or two I broke my wagon tire and had to take it to Naperville 100 miles to be mended and get my horses shod, it being the nearest shop I could get to with-

out swimming. It happened well enough for I got a good price for bringing a load from Chicago.

"Heavy immigration that winter and spring of 1836; provisions scarce and high; flour sixteen and a half dollars a barrel; pork eighteen and three-quarter cents per pound. . . .



Mrs. N. G. Reynolds

". . . I have said provisions were high, but as soon as I began to have a surplus everything was on the decline, but I kept breaking and improving for five years until I had 130 acres under cultivation and considerable stock. In 1843 I fattened and took 100 hogs to Galena market (if it could be called so) when the following dialog commenced by about twenty Irishmen, 'ha mi, stranger, what do you ask for that pork,' '1.75' said I, 'Oh, mun, I saw as fine pork as you ever pit yer eye upon sold last Saturday for six bits, but that looks fine I give you one dollar a hundred and take the lot. What say you now.' 'I don't say anything.' 'What say you now—I give you a dollar and not another happenth.' Just at that time a dog lit upon one hog and commenced eating one of the hams. 'I say stranger that dog is eating your pork.' 'Let him eat,' I said, 'a man could not be a christian that would drive a dog away from pork that was worth only a dollar a hundred.' In a short time I effected a sale at 1.50 for light and 1.75 for heavy. That was a small price after drawing it 60 miles. It is different now. We have two railroads within twenty miles and produce bears a good price, and I am satisfied that patience and perserverance will drive a toad to Jerusalem. . . ."

**CONGRATULATIONS  
FROM ONE OLD TIMER  
TO ANOTHER**

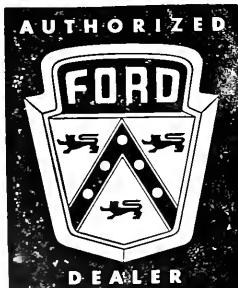
**SMITH TRUST AND  
SAVINGS BANK**

SINCE 1878

MORRISON, ILLINOIS

MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT  
INSURANCE CORP.

**Pierceson Motor Sales**



**FORD CARS & TRUCKS**  
Serving The American Motorist

The Past 56 Years

**MERCURY AUTOMOBILES**  
Serving The American Motorist  
The Past 20 Years

**PIERCESON MOTOR SALES**  
Serving The Prophetstown Community  
The Past 11 Years

Dredging

Excavating

Bulldozing

**Phil Swanson**

Sunday Worship 10:00

**PROPHETSTOWN  
ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

**Rev. Wilfred O. Gardner - Pastor**

206 Elm St.

Founded in 1948

We Believe in Salvation Through Christ,  
who is coming again to establish his  
kingdom on an earth made new.

Ours is an open communion to all who believe.

# From Incorporation in 1859 To Organized Government

*The perspective changes. The Indians have left Thunderbolt and a thriving community has replaced Wa bo-kie-shiek's primitive village. The need for schools, streets and local rules of human conduct now requires a central authority.*

An act to incorporate the village of Prophets-town was passed by the Ill. State Legislature on Feb. 22, 1859. The town council met on Monday evening, April 18, 1859, in the office of A. J. Mattson. Councilmen present were Mattson, A. J. Tuller, A. G. Porter, John H. Warner, E. S. Dickinson, Elias C. Hutchinson and Wm. G. Minchen.

All councilmen served without pay except the clerk who received one dollar for each license or other instrument that would produce a revenue for the corporation. When the organization of the board was completed, Ordinances I to and including 10 were read and adopted. Cyrus Emery appeared before the board to vacate an alley. A. J. Mattson paid the first money the village received, \$10 for the vacating of an alley. The clerk was in-



structed to issue a list of road laborers (pole tax) within the corporation.

On Friday evening, March 23, 1860, the council met and totaled the first year's finances of the corporation of Prophetstown. Corporation Treas., A. J. Mattson, reported money received \$100.75; paid out \$70 and balance on hand \$40.75. The street commissioner reported expenses as \$115.24; received from county treasurer \$70, leaving an unpaid balance of \$45.24.

On March 31, 1862, the council moved to buy land between the graveyard and the Dixon Road, now 3rd St., for \$50 per acre, the land to be used for a cemetery. (The cemetery has been expanded since as necessity required with permanent surfaced drives and beautiful landscaping throughout.



The Village Council in 1912



## WHITESIDE SERVICE CO.

Plant Foods - Petroleum Products



CLARENCE HUNT  
SALESMAN



## ORSI AND CARDOSI CANDY KITCHEN

FOUNTAIN SERVICE, LUNCHEONS  
NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES

## CONGRATULATIONS

### TAMPICO NATIONAL BANK TAMPICO, ILLINOIS

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## APPAREL SHOPPE

NELLIE WETZEL

• • •

Dresses, Sport Wear, Girdles,  
Bras, Blouses, Millinery



Scene of East Third Street in Late 1800's.

While it was incorporated only in 1917, beauty has been its motive since its inception.)

People had the human trait of procrastination even in early days as was shown by the delinquent pole tax list as follows: A. J. Mattison, 2 days; A. Anderson, 1 day; John C. Paddock, 2 days.

On May 3, 1863, the council made extensive preparations to combat small pox, urging everyone to be vaccinated and prepared an isolated rest house and employed nurses.

It was on June 4, 1866, that the council granted the first recorded license to sell ardent spirits. Within the first 20 years of the corporation, the saloon licenses were raised from \$25 to \$150.

Notice of a village election in April, 1867, was the first election notice of its kind to appear in a newspaper here.

The Prophetstown Spike, predecessor of the Prophetstown Echo, was first published on Sept. 2, 1871 by Charles Bent and A. D. Hill.

The people of Prophetstown were quite concerned during the early years over the battle of holding the river from cutting the high bank along the corporation bounds.

Nov. 14, 1870, the council acted to widen Bent-on St. Road south from Washington St., preparing for the new depot of the Illinois Grand Trunk Railroad.



Alfred Petty's Clothing Store

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO  
PROPHETSTOWN  
ON 100 YEARS OF  
PROGRESS !!**

**GOODENOUGH'S  
DAIRY**

**GRADE "A"**

**DAIRY PRODUCTS - ICE CREAM**

For Home Delivery

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**PROPHETSTOWN SPEED WASH**

**SELF SERVICE — COIN OPERATED**

**WASHERS and DRYERS**

**Open 7 Days A Week**

**349 WASHINGTON STREET**

**HARRY FISK CO.**

**LYNDON, ILLINOIS**

**YOUR JOHN DEERE DEALER**

20 Years of Service to

This Community.

**OUR  
BEST WISHES  
to our neighbors in  
PROPHETSTOWN**

upon the celebration of your centennial.  
May your fine city continue to prosper in  
the years to come.

*The Central*  
**NATIONAL BANK**  
**OF STERLING**  
MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM  
MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

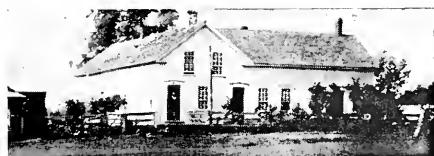


An Early Store Front

In 1871, a sidewalk was built to the depot, three-planks wide.

The street commissioner's salary was raised in 1871 to \$1.50 per day.

On Dec. 30, 1872, the council ordered purchases of fire fighting equipment: 2 24-ft. ladders with stiles 6" at base and 4" at top; 2 16-ft ladders with stiles 6" to 4"; 2 12-ft. ladders with stiles 4" to 3" and 2 doz. of the best 3-hooped pails to be bought. It was resolved to sink a well for fire protection in the center of the square of Washington St. and 3rd St. The well, pump and fixtures were largely financed by public subscription.



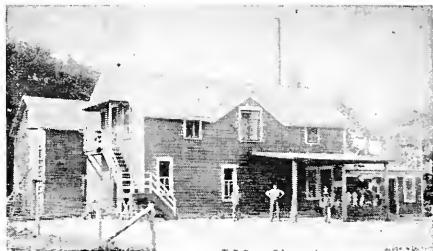
The Annis House

In 1874, the council ordered built a lockup or calaboose, 12 x 14 ft., 8 ft. high on stone foundation and shingled roof at a cost of \$200.

A special night watchman was hired in 1877 during the four day horse fair. He received \$1.50 per night.

Two of the outstanding buildings and the pride of the town at this time were Baldwins store at 218 Washington St., and the First Nat'l Bank at 112 E. 3rd St.

The first industries of the town were for the purpose of processing community products. A creamery was established at 638 E. 3rd St., for making butter and cheese. As the local stockmen were then, as now, great hog raisers, favoring the Jersey Red, the processing of pork was a thriving industry. Job Dodge, a merchant with a store at 106 W. 3rd St., also had a pork processing plant and hauled dressed hogs to Savannah and Albany, where they were sent by river to St. Louis. He received from 75 cents to \$1.50 per 100 lbs. of dressed pork. His business grossed \$25,000 a year.



William McNeill's Creamery of 1881.

In 1854, Horace Annis, Thomas Bryant and the Warner brothers erected a large brick building on W. 3rd St., on the ground now occupied by the new Lutheran Church, as a plow and wagon factory. The Warner brothers later became sole owners and added a steam saw mill and had an extensive business for a while, but discontinued it in 1869. These brothers also had a processing plant for pork and one for poultry. They would have in their yard, now 315 W. 2nd St., 3,000 geese at a time. The yard was on the hillside and during an ice storm they put a touch of tar on the feet of the geese so that they could walk on the ice. The geese, it was claimed, ate a wagon load of corn a day. The pork plant was at the location currently known as 106 and 108 Riverside Drive.

The McDonald Mfg. Co., owned by Dr. Tascher, made patterns for the casting of gray iron floor plates. W. I. Schryver manufactured breaking carts, and, along with others, had an extensive business of buggy painting.



The Rock River House

**81st Year of Publication**

# THE MOLINE DAILY DISPATCH

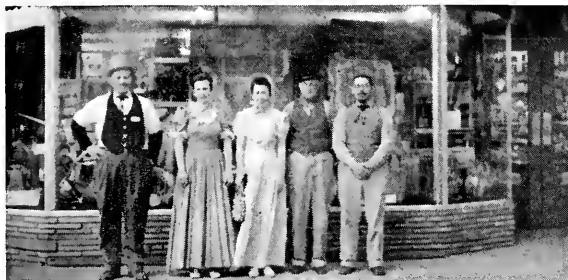


**MABEL HARMS**

Dispatch Prophetstown  
Office Manager

Serving five Western Illinois counties, where it contributes to enjoyable family living, The Dispatch offers a comfortable blend of international, national, state and local news. The Dispatch is at home in the city, village and on the farm. The Dispatch, leader in community service, is honored to participate in the 100th anniversary of Prophetstown—The Centennial City.

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Complete Line of  
Hardware  
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**Maytag  
&  
G.E.  
Appliances**

317 WASHINGTON ST.

PHONE 2881 - PROPHETSTOWN, ILL.

## The Telephone Company

The first telephone lines of this community were built by farmers to furnish neighborhood party line telephone service. Each neighborhood built its own line and had several telephones connected on the line, but no switchboard or central office connection. The first of these lines was built on what is known as the Washington Street Road. After several of these lines were built, it was decided that a switchboard should be installed. This was done and the subscribers were to pay an annual switching fee of two dollars and fifty cents.

More and more people were acquiring telephone service. On February 18, 1903, a charter was issued to form a corporation to be named The Whiteside County Mutual Telephone Company. It was to furnish telephone service for Morrison, Lyndon, Prophetstown and the rural communities adjacent to these towns.

At a meeting held on October 21, 1905, in the town hall at Prophetstown, an agreement was made to divide the territory of the Whiteside County Mutual Telephone Company. Prophetstown was to have all the territory south of Rock River and also the two farms at the north end of the Rock River Bridge. Following this division, an application was made by The Prophetstown Mutual Telephone Company for a corporate charter. This was granted. At the time of this meeting, two hundred and forty telephones had been installed and toll connections had been established with The Central Union Telephone Company of Sterling and trunk lines had been connected with Morrison, Tampico, Erie and Hooppole.

During the year 1914, a new switchboard was purchased and installed in a second floor apartment at 334½ South Washington Street. The new equipment had a capacity of one hundred and sixty lines.

At the annual stockholders meeting of December 14, 1915, it was voted to maintain twenty-four hour service. Prior to this time the exchange had been operated six a.m. to nine p.m. daily and on Sundays eight to ten a.m. and two to four p.m. except for emergency calls.

In 1918, The Interstate Telephone Company, which had also operated a telephone exchange in this community, sold its plant and equipment to The Morrison Telephone Company and the local service of this company was discontinued. The toll lines to Sterling and Morrison were taken over by the Morrison Company and connected to the Prophetstown switchboard.

In 1919, a new three position switchboard with a capacity of three hundred lines was purchased and installed by the Prophetstown company. The

number of telephone users at this time was six hundred and sixty-five.

On February 28, 1928, the company entered into an agreement for the erection of a new exchange building and to lease the same for a period of twenty years. The building was erected at 108 East Railroad Street and the equipment was moved into the new building May 6, 1928, and connected to a new underground cable system. At this time there was a total of seven hundred thirty-six stations.

During the year 1952, a twenty year loan was secured to finance changing the service from magneto and common battery to an automatic dial telephone exchange. An addition to the exchange building was made and leased from the owner to provide space for the new equipment. At present, it is a dial operated exchange with one thousand, three hundred and seventy stations.

In 1956, the Hooppole telephone exchange was purchased and added to the Prophetstown exchange. The Hooppole exchange has been completely rebuilt and converted to dial service. A fire-proof building was built to house the new equipment. This change has added about one hundred and eighty telephones.

At present there are eight toll lines to Sterling, two to Morrison, one to Tampico, one to Erie and two trunk lines to Hooppole.



Number Please? — Mary Warner, Pearl Needham

SERVING PROPHETSTOWN  
**SINCE 1896**

J. E. FRARY  
1896-1905

J. E. FRARY & SON  
J. E. FRARY      CLAUDE E. FRARY  
1905-1917

FRARY & FRARY  
BRACE M. FRARY    CLAUDE E. FRARY  
1917-1947

**FRARY & SONS**  
**1947-- ???**



C. Deane Frary



Brace M. Frary



Dan E. Frary

FENCING  
BUILDING MATERIALS  
GRAIN  
FEED

—  
PAINTS  
FARM SUPPLIES  
COAL  
SEED

FERTILIZER  
PHONE 4051

# Horse Thieves Detective Club

Prevalent crime of the early days was that of stealing horses. Many communities have tales handed down through the years about a person or two who was involved in such activities directly or otherwise.

It has been said that there lived nearby a man who had established a hide-out for the horse thieves. It seemed that on his farm there was a barn built into a bank, providing not only room for horses, but their riders as well. This particular farm was obvious to the thieves because of the thirteen white gates which had significance to those thusly employed.

A tunnel connected the house and barn so that communications and food could be taken to the thieves without notice.

On most occasions the thieves rode at night and hid during the daytime. When accommodations, such as the one mentioned, were not available, they chose to hide in the canebrake along the rivers and sloughs. However, within a night's ride from this local hide-out the thieves could find another marked farm where they would be welcomed by a host whom they, no doubt, paid well.

Since horse thieves became quite a threat to the settlers, the Prophetstown Horse Thief Detective Club was organized in 1865. The original constitution and by-laws are copied as follows:

## Organization of the Prophetstown Horse Thief Detective Club A. D. 1865

We the undersigned for the purpose of protecting ourselves against horse thieves propose to form a protective union and agree to pay one dollar each for a life membership and also agree to subject ourselves to such rules and regulations and assessments as said Protection Union may prescribe.

## Constitution

**PREAMBLE:** We the citizens of the Township of Prophetstown, County of Whiteside and State of Illinois, for the purpose of mutual protection against horse thieves agree to form ourselves into a society and to be governed by the following rules and regulations subject to amendment at any regular meeting by a majority of the members present.

Article 1: This society shall be known by the name of the Prophetstown Horse Thief Detective Club.

Article 2: The officers of this society shall be one president, two vice-pres., one secretary and one treasurer, they shall hold their offices one year or until their successors are elected.

Article 3: It shall be the duty of the President to call all special meetings of this society, direct the riders, decide all claims against the society, give all orders on the treasury.

Article 4: The Vice President shall discharge all duties devolving on the President in his absence.

Article 5: The secretary shall keep a record of all the proceedings of this society and report the same whenever called upon and post notices of all regular meetings at least ten days before the same.

Article 6: The treasurer shall keep a correct account of all monies received belonging to the society and disburse upon the orders of the president and report at regular meetings.

Article 7: Any person may become a member of this society by signing this constitution and paying into the treasurer the sum of one dollar.

Article 8: The officers of this society shall be elected by ballot and all other questions coming before the society may be decided by ballot or yeas and nays and the regular meetings of this society shall be on the same day of the annual town meeting.

## —By Laws—

It shall be the duty of each member of this society to go at the order or call of the president when designated whenever and wherever directed in pursuit of any horse stolen from any member of this society.

Any member neglecting or refusing to go at the order or call of the president without a good and sufficient cause shall forfeit his membership to this society. The first days riding shall be free and for each day thereafter necessarily employed a fee of one dollar and fifty cents and reasonable expenses shall be paid out of the treasury of said society. When any member of this society being in pursuit shall secure any horse thief and deliver him to the proper authorities he shall be entitled to receive from this society a reward of ten dollars besides all other rewards offered by other parties. Whenever it shall come to the knowledge of any member that horse has been stolen it shall be the duty of said member to report the fact immediately to the president and as far as practicable to other members.

A membership of five days will be required of any person joining this society, after the expiration of one month from the adoption of this constitution before he can receive the aid of this society.

Any member receiving aid from this society to hunt horses other than stolen ones shall pay all expenses.



# YOUR I-H DEALER **BENTERS AND ALLEN**



## Congratulates Prophetstown

Pictured below are Customers who Purchased  
Machines and Tractors on The Early Traders Bonus.

ASK  
ABOUT  
E. T. B.

ASK  
FOR  
DEMONSTRATION



See The All New I. H. Tractors

AND

New (Years Ahead) Farm Machines

AT

# **BENTERS and ALLEN**

GENUINE PARTS AND SERVICE

PROPHETSTOWN, ILL.

PHONE 2501

This ad sponsored by Benters and Allen &  
INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER — Broadview, Ill.

Any member suspected of fraud or treachery to this society may be expelled by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any regular or special meeting.

All members shall be liable and shall pay equal assessments for fees, rewards and for necessary and incidental expenses in maintaining this society.

List of members of the Prophetstown Horse Thief Detective Club Viz: Cyrus Emery, N. Thompson, O. Willcox, E. S. Ellithorpe, Geo. Paddock, Wm. Hill, Geo. P. Richmond, Dan Van Antwerp, R. J. Dickinson, Ed Reynolds, Orrin Paddock, Jacob Winchell, Wm. Lane, H. S. Hull, S. G. Baldwin, J. H. Mosher, Ed Paddock, Chas. Lancaster, W. E. Brigham, Horatis Greene, E. S. Bently, Edw. Lancaster, H. A. Sturtevant, Wm. Booth, Isaac Francis, Geo. W. Potter, John Aylesworth, C. W. Cabot, Nathan E. Gage, Myron Howland, Daniel Leahy, M. V.

Seeley, D. W. Paddock, Chas. McCarter, D. K. Smith, J. W. Hill, J. H. Warner, A. D. Adams, J. E. Loomis, Thos. Drain, R. C. Crook, J. A. Jamison, A. E. Loomis, John Lewis, Fred Hutchinson.

At their regular meeting April 7, 1896, a motion was made and carried that the Secretary and Treasurer be instructed to take the necessary steps and organize under the State law Chapter 32 Section 92.

Nathan Thompson Pres.  
Geo. P. Richmond  
M. V. Seely  
Vice Pres.  
H. S. Hull Treas.  
S. G. Baldwin Secy.

It has been reported that during its existence, the Horse Thief Detective Club recovered one stolen horse.

## The Light Company

In 1896 William McNeill started an electric light plant here. Hall Green of Morrison installed it for a contract price of \$10,000. The DC current was generated by steam power, which ran from 12 noon to 12 midnight. The plant was housed in a frame building covered with iron located in the center of the 200 block on West Railroad St.

Electric meters were not used at first. Everyone paid a flat rate per month.

Mr. McNeill sold his light plant to Roy Olmstead and Charles Lancaster in 1900. A fireman for the steam-powered plant and the two partners were the utility crew, doing all the wiring, line

work, etc. They used as a conveyance a light wagon drawn by one horse. After a year Lancaster sold his interest in the plant to Jay Sholes. Two years later Mr. Olmstead became the sole owner. A new building was erected for this plant. Not wishing to interrupt operations of the plant, the new building was constructed completely around the old one which they later razed and carried out piece by piece. Mr. Olmstead operated the plant until 1912, when he sold it to the Illinois Northern Utility Co., a subsidiary of Commonwealth Edison Co. A high voltage line from Sterling was erected in 1913. The system has been converted from direct to alternating current.

## Driving Park Association

The Prophetstown Driving Park Ass'n was organized in 1875. It was a tract of around 20 acres lying west and adjoining Washington Street along the 900 block. A half-mile race track was laid out and properly finished with all necessary buildings. This was considered a very fast track, due to the texture of the soil which was of a cushion nature rather than the hard packed clay in most tracks. Sherman Baldwin was one of the more prominent mentioned starters.

Some of the outstanding local horses and owners were Gregory Boy, David Adams; Lula McCurdy, George P. Richmond; Judge Crabtree, Sherman Baldwin; Molock, J. H. Mosher; Harry B., Jack Bracken; Bum, Swan Swanson; Billie Wonder, Jim Middleton, and Pete Johnson, Ort Chamberlain.

Gregory Boy was killed racing in Iowa. A grey mare owned by Adams established a record on the Galesburg, Ill., track by being the first to circle the half-mile track in one minute. While Richmond owned Lula McCurdy, she was considered the greatest racer in these parts.

Richmond was a breeder of fine horses and often had 50 head at one time. There was an excellent training track on the Richmond farm east of town on Jackson St. Road, now State Route 172, where horses were put in shape for the local race track. If these horses did not prove fast enough, they would be sold for private driving horses.

So far as is known the driving park was discontinued soon after the turn of the century.

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## The Old Supervisor's Bridge

On December 16, 1891, at the regular meeting of the board of supervisors of Whiteside County, Messrs. Nevitt, Potter and Hall were appointed as a Prophetstown bridge committee to survey the prospective highway bridge site over Rock River and advertise for bids.

The contract for the new bridge was let on October 13, 1892, to the Detroit Bridge and Iron Works on the site which is approximately the same location as the present bridge on State Route 78.

The price was to be \$25,979.00 and the cost was to be borne equally between Prophetstown Township and Whiteside County.

The huge stones for the piers and abutments were shipped in by freight and cut and dressed on the ground where the west end of the Eclipse Plant No. 1 borders Washington St. at Railroad St. Both the piers and the super structure of the bridge were hauled to the bridge site by teams. This bridge was replaced by the present one in 1934.

## Supervisors Bid for National Capitol

The supervisor represented the township in county government. Serving in that capacity were: Obadiah W. Gage 1852-8; Mark Averill 1859; H. S. Cabot 1860-75; Mark Averill 1862; Andrew J. Tuller 1863-68; Leander Lewis 1869-75, and Phinas B. Reynolds 1876-77.

A resolution was offered at the Dec. 1869 session of supervisors, duly acted upon and adopted,

offering the county; "because of the Mississippi River, a great avenue of travel and commerce, forming our western boundary; the great east and west highway and great central rail route from east to west transversing the country", as a national capital in lieu of Washington, D. C. So had this offer been accepted, Prophetstown could have been just a street address on, say, Pennsylvania Avenue.

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**100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

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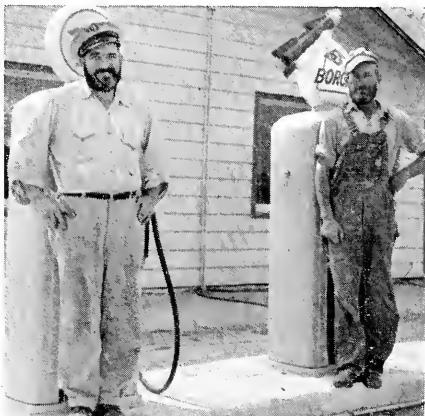
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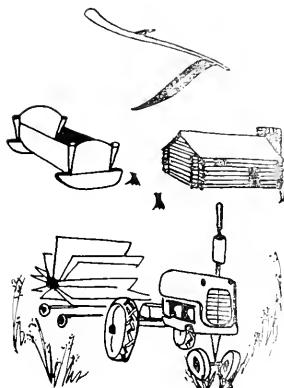
OWNERS

# From Hand Toil to Mechanized Farming

*Summer breezes no longer fan wild prairie grasses, but even rows of corn. The rhythmical efficiency of the farm machinery has replaced the sounds of community groups working at harvest. But the hazards of searing drought, flood and pestilence continue to challenge the bold and strong and defeat the timid and indolent.*

Prophetstown lies in the heart of a very rich agricultural district. The land is extremely fertile, and many thrifty farmers have grown financially independent. In the early 1900's it was probably the only rural section where the soil tillers had automobiles. It is said that in town and country around there were nearly twenty of those destructive machines. The face of the land was beautiful, not a dead level, but just enough swell and meadow to create a beautiful countryside. No wonder Black Hawk and his braves clung to this lovely valley.

Only a few Prophetstown residents can remember cutting grain with a cradle. Early settlers cut their grain with a cradle. It was built in the shape of a scythe with one blade that performed the cutting plus four or five curved, round sticks forming the cradle on which the grain would rest. It swung like a scythe, and at the end of the stroke, the grain was deposited in a pile. Later, the farmer raked the piles into the size needed for bundles. As there was no string, the farmer tied



the bundles with a straw knot. Timothy, for instance, was stacked two bundles wide and six or eight bundles long to permit the air to circulate through.

One improvement was the Kirby Reaper. It featured a floor that raised and lowered to permit cutting different heights of grain or grass. The man walked along the side and raked off grain in piles suitable for tying. Later, the Marsh Harvester was employed. Two men rode the machine and tied the bundles with grain. Another machine used and seen in many Threshing Reunions was the Self-Rake. It had five arms that turned on the same principle as a reel. It raked the straw off the platform to be tied by hand.

In the 1880's binders came out with an attachment that tied the bundle by machine. Wire was first used, but it was discontinued because the wire found its way into the cows' stomach. Mr. Weatherbee invented the bill hook that is still used on today's modern automatic baler.



An Early Threshing Scene

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Ola Adams Single-Handedly Pulls Mower Through Mallory Hill's Field — Settles \$10 Wager in 1897.

Horses were the source of power for all of the farm machines. Indeed, many farmers built up their standing in the community by their ability to buy, trade and breed horses. A good horse sold for about \$100. In the spring, until the coming of tractors, new colts were broken. Most machines used a three-horse hitch. Many of today's farmers can recall the stud horse being led behind a buggy through the countryside. Breeding fees were \$10 to \$15.

Horse thieves were a problem in this area. There was a society established to track down the culprits. Charles Emery's grandfather was president in the early days.

Years ago there were no veterinarians. Farmers had their own or the neighbor's cure for sickness. A dose of medicine called 'Nighier' was given for kidney trouble. About 1880 the closest vet lived in Geneseo.

The same crops known on today's farms were grown in the early days—corn, oats, timothy and clover. There were no experimental stations or commercial companies to supply the farmer with seed or information. If a farmer wanted new seed, he exchanged with his neighbor.

Farms were generally smaller in acreage than now. For one man, eighty acres was an average-size farm. He had, on an average, six cows, a few chickens and 12-20 hogs. One farmer in the community raised about sixty head of hogs a year. He was the object of much curiosity as farmers would drive miles to see his huge amount of hogs. Hogs were sold alive to Chicago Stock Yards. They were kept at least a year to fatten up for sale. Hogs weighed at least three hundred pounds before shipping, and sometimes they weighed as much as six-hundred pounds. They were fattened on skim milk and corn. Cattle buyers toured the country

and bought cattle. When sold, they were driven down the road to the market place.

As there was no tile, there was much wet land. Hunting ducks was a popular pastime. Ducks were sometimes so thick they raised up like a cloud!

Fences were a problem on early farms. Boards and oak rails were used because there was no fencing wire or barbed wire. A popular fence was the willow fence. A green willow stick pushed into the ground would take root and grow anywhere. A willow tree would stool out so thickly that livestock could not go through. Later smooth wire was used around the buildings. Some farmers experimented with fastening short pieces of wire onto the smooth wire with the points sharpened. This was the fore-runner of today's barbed wire.

When a man starts farming today, he needs lots of credit, a bank account, a full line of machinery, livestock to fill his sheds, plus a wife and a set of furniture. In the 1800's, he needed a husky wife, a team of horses, a one-row corn plow, a two-section drag, a mowing machine, a fourteen inch walking plow, a wagon and a buggy. If a man were very capable, he could hire out for as much as \$20 a month. Land sold for about \$40 an acre.

Prices at the D. M. Crawford store in Sterling in June, 1862, were quite different than those of today. Common shoes sold for \$1.15 a pair, and cheaper shoes were fifty cents a pair. Cotton flannel was quite expensive at thirty cents a yard. Denim sold for twenty-two cents a yard and muslin at fourteen cents a yard. If you needed a pair of inexpensive gloves, you paid nine cents a pair. Coffee sold for twenty five cents a pound. Corn sold at ten cents a bushel, and it was so cheap it was sometimes burned for fuel. When you took your butter, eggs and lard to town to sell, you received

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IS BEST FOR THE HAIR**

eight cents for thirty pounds of butter, four cents a dozen for eggs and seven cents a pound for lard. Town was usually as much a twenty-five or thirty miles away.

Compare that with today's prices! The farmer of long ago also did without electricity, hydraulic systems, milking machines, silage unloaders, combines, balers and many other things we think commonplace. As there was no refrigeration, milk was skimmed two times a day and kept in the cellar to cool. Later, cool water from the pump was used.

Home butchering and canning was done on all

farms. Butcher wagons toured the country, and the people could buy their meat supplies from them. Telephones came in the early 1900's and electricity in the 1930's.

Despite the work, the farm people loved to square dance on Saturday nights. There was a dance hall in Spring Hill and in Yorktown where the Motor Inn is now located. Many dances were held in the farm home. Orchestras were composed of two or three violins and a bass viol. A caller was always in demand, and if he were well-versed, he made the evening interesting for everyone.



The Hilaire Castelein Modern Farm Near Prophetsstown

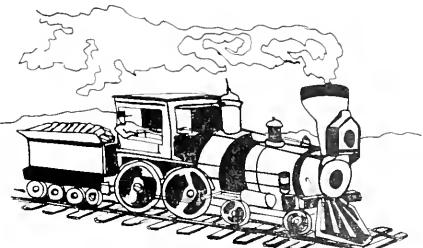


**CONGRATULATIONS**  
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# The Coming of the Iron Horse

*In Eighteen hundred seventy one, the view from the Mountain was clouded by puffs of smoke from the first iron horse. But this advancement in transportation was not accomplished without heartbreak and sacrifice.*



It was a natural hope and ambition of the people of Prophetstown to have rail facilities. Like many other communities this town was the victim of dreamers, promoters and downright swindlers.

The building of the present railroad through Prophetstown was marked by nearly 20 years of struggle to secure the right of way and sufficient finances. Many individuals lost great sums of money before any trains were put into operation.

The Comanche, Albany and Mendota Railroad Company was incorporated under the General Law of Illinois, by Articles dated July 31, 1856, and filed with the Secretary of State on September 11, 1856.

On July 31, 1856, the company was organized at Albany, Illinois, by the election of officers. The route was to extend from Mendota, in LaSalle County, Illinois, to Albany, in Whiteside County, Illinois. The railroad was planned to service LaSalle, Bureau, Lee and Whiteside counties.

A large subscription to the stock of the company was obtained along the line. Nearly all property owners subscribed, thinking it a sound investment.

This company did no construction work, but acquired most of the right of way. On June 1, 1859, it then consolidated with the Joliet, Terre Haute Railroad Company (which was incorporated in



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The First Depot

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Train Wreck Near the Depot

1852) and took the name of Illinois Grand Trunk Railway Company. The new company was organized on June 1, 1859, at Mendota, Illinois, by the election of officers.

There is nothing on record to show what the new company accomplished, but probably some grading was done on the line from Mendota to Alton and more right of way acquired.

More money was needed and the same property owners subscribed additional funds. Many people mortgaged their homes to do it. In addition to having the much needed rail facilities, they had hopes that the railroad would greatly increase the value of their property and give a large return on their investments. About \$270,000 was subscribed in all by the people along the line. The contract was let and the contractors took their pay in mortgage bonds. Work was begun and a great portion of it was finished by the end of 1859. The bonds came due and the majority of them were not paid. Work was suspended and law suits were begun to force collection. The subscribers became indignant and irate, for they had mortgaged their homes and had nothing in return.

During a long period of legal difficulties a series of transactions took place wherein the railroad property changed ownership several times.

From a connection with the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad near Mendota, Illinois, the newly organized Illinois Grand Trunk Railway was to go westerly to Prophetstown, Illinois. Then from Prophetstown a main line extension would go northwest to East Clinton, Illinois, and thence to Fulton, Illinois. In all the total number of miles of track constructed in the name of the Illinois Trunk Railway was 64.38. There were never any branch lines constructed.

A. J. Mattson of Prophetstown was instrumental in encouraging towns along the line to donate more land for station grounds and money to further and

hasten the project. Again in 1870, work was begun and the line was completed and the first train of cars came into town on March 8, 1871. It was opened for traffic to Prophetstown on May 14, 1871. The first regular passenger and freight service began early in 1872. To be sure, excitement was high on that great day, when the first train of cars entered the village of Prophetstown. The main line extension from Prophetstown to East Clinton was completed and placed in operation July 23, 1872. By the year 1883 the main line extension from East Clinton was opened for use.

The Illinois Grand Trunk Railway never operated any portion of the rail it constructed or which was constructed in its name. On October 1, 1870, the above named company leased for 99 years, all of its railroad built and to be built, to the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy R. R. Company which operated it from the date of completion until June 1, 1899, at which time it purchased the line. To the present day it owns and operates the road.

In 1920 there were four regular passenger trains and six regular local freights.

The steam engines gave way to the diesels in the early forties.

The original depot burned down in 1944. A new one was completed in 1949. In the meantime a 'box car' depot was used.

The passenger service was discontinued about 1950. To date there are two regular local freights as well as several through freights.



First Railroad Bridge — 1871

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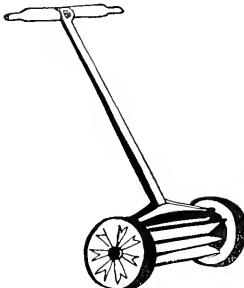
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**TAMPICO, ILL.**

# Inventive Genius Brings Industry

*The tiny night light of an inventive genius might have been barely visible from Thunderbolt at the turn of the century. But the product of Fred Adams' handiwork was destined to alter the view.*



It is doubtful that Chief Wa-bo-kie-shiek, the Prophet, for whom Prophetstown is named and who was credited with ability to look into the future, could foresee an industry arising near the site of his camp on Coon Creek.

The Eclipse Lawn Mower Co. came into being in early 1900 when a local resident, Fred Adams, developed a new type lawn mower with several unique features that were patented in 1902. He was joined shortly thereafter by his brother, Henry C. Adams, and the business was incorporated in 1904 with C. W. Fenn and Dr. J. H. Mosher as directors in addition to the Adams brothers. The company, like so many small businesses, started by individuals with ideas and ambition, grew and flourished under our system of free enterprise.

located where the Pure Oil Station now stands. In 1910, the first floor of Plant I was erected, and later, the second floor and east section were added.

In the year 1912 about 12 persons were employed by the company. One of these was Luther Lindberg who retired in 1954 after having served the company for more than 42 years. Production at that time averaged approximately 60 mowers a day for two days a week.

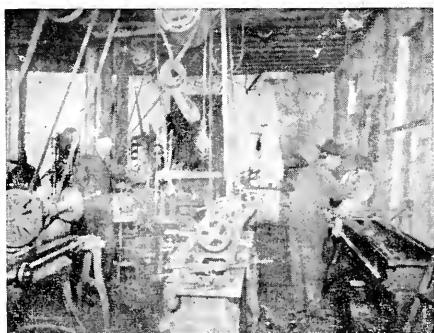
Manufacturing space was expanded from time to time as the business increased, and in 1920 the company built its own foundry, which was dedicated by William Jennings Bryan. The first castings were produced in the spring of 1921.

A woodshop building was erected in 1921, as at that time lawn mowers had wooden handles and rollers, and for the most part, shipped in wooden boxes. With the trend toward steel handles, the original woodshop has been converted into storage space for castings.

Henry Adams was the principal executive officer of the company during all of its difficult formative years. During the period of changes from hand to powered mowers, and through the critical years of the depression the company was operated under the dynamic leadership of L. B. Roth, Adam's son-in-law.

In 1937 The Eclipse Lawn Mower Co. was the first manufacturer to develop a power driven model designed and priced for home use. This was the popular "20" Rocket which made the name "Eclipse" famous throughout the world.

In 1937 a modern steel and brick storage warehouse was erected, and because of the continued expansion of the buildings the manufacturing building, known as Plant II, was started in 1941. By the time this building was completed, World War II in-



Early Interior of Eclipse

The first Eclipse lawn mowers were built in a barn located on the property now owned by Mrs. Vinna Lamont on Washington Street. As business increased, the mowers were made in a building



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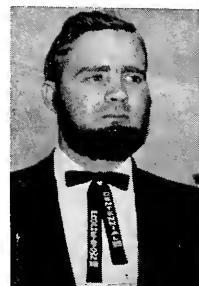
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Congratulations Prophetstown

**FRANK FOTZLER**

tervened and the manufacture of lawn mowers was prohibited. The company then offered its services toward the war effort and entered into an agreement with Burgess-Norton Manufacturing Company in Geneva, Illinois, to supply tank track links for the ordnance department to be produced in the new building. The manufacture of war material continued from June, 1942, until July, 1945, and during this period some \$4,000,000 worth of links were produced. In April of 1943, the company received the Army and Navy Award for its high standard of production efficiency.

After the death of Mr. Roth on April 30, 1945, the stock of The Eclipse Lawn Mower Co. was sold by the Adams family to the Buffalo Bolt Company of North Tonawanda, New York.

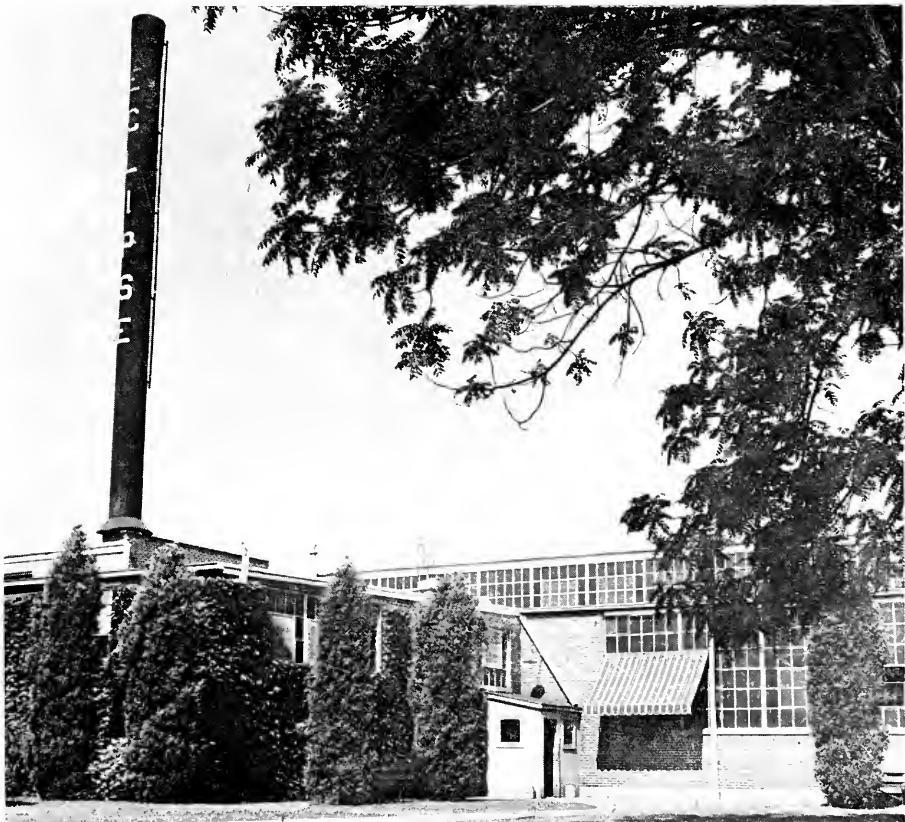
The company continued to expand and warehouse buildings were erected in 1950 and 1954, including an enclosed railroad siding which will accommodate four freight cars at one time. The organization now has approximately 200,000 square feet of floor space and employs up to 275 persons.

In 1950, at the time of the company's 50th anniversary, a policy of awarding pins to employees for continuous length of service was announced.

The firm first produced the rotary mower during the 1953 season, and following the national trend, this type now constitutes the major portion of its unit sales.

In December, 1956, The Eclipse Lawn Mower Co. purchased the power chain saw business of the Northern States Equipment Company of Richland Center, Wisconsin, and is currently producing saws under the trade name "Wasp" in the local plant.

Houdaille Industries, Inc. of Buffalo, New York, in October, 1958, purchased a controlling interest in the capital stock of Buffalo-Eclipse Corporation, including the local plant. This acquisition was part of a program of diversification by Houdaille Industries, whose major business is producing parts for automobile manufacturers and products for the construction industries.





Congratulations  
**PROPHETSTOWN**  
On Your  
**100<sup>TH</sup>**  
**ANNIVERSARY**

Your Legislator from this District for 20 Years.

Your City Mayor for 20 Years.

# George S. Brydia

No citizen could ask for more than to serve your interests in public office for 40 years.

I wish to thank the persons who have contributed to my success both as your mayor and legislator.

My particular congratulations go to the Prophetstown Echo, your founding fathers, and the citizens who have contributed their time and talents to make this the greatest town under 2,000 population in the state of Illinois.

May our Progress continue for the next 100 years and generations to come.



Civil War Veterans



Albert Field Home Corner of Locust and West 3rd



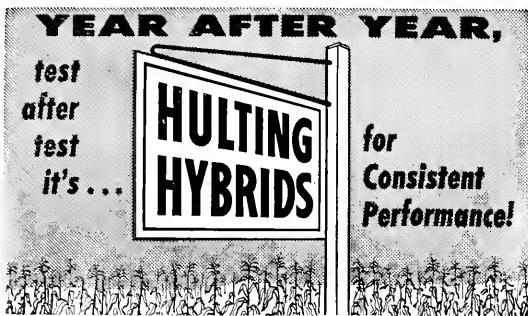
The Dr. Mosher Home on Corner of Lafayette and W. 3rd



The C. Deane Frary Home



Coon Creek



ART FOTZLER — Prophetstown, Ill.

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**HOMES**

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**LOTS**

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**BUSINESS**



Prophetstown State Park embraces fifty-three acres land along Rock River and Coon Creek. A Winnebago Indian village was located in this general locality. This park has been developed during the administration of Governor William G. Stratton.

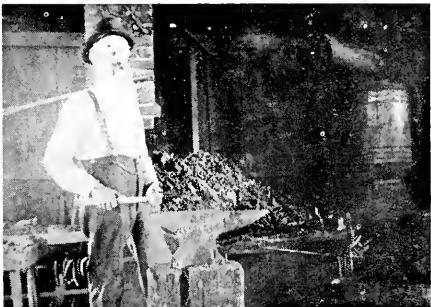


**George S. Brydia**

While many midwest rural communities have remained static since an original spurt of growth around 1900, Prophetstown has enjoyed an uninterrupted progress. Many people, interested in community as well as self, have contributed to its success. No person, however, has had a greater political influence on Prophetstown than Rep. George S. Brydia. As a soccer player, salesman, ten-term mayor and finally as representative in the state legislature since 1939, Mr. Brydia has aroused in us all the sense of community pride so essential to growth.



**Some Sunday Afternoon**



**"The Village Smithy Stands . . ."**



**"Out For a Spin"**



ROMANS

TAVERN





This building was built in 1854 by Horace Annis, Thomas Bryant, and the Warner brothers. It was used as a plow and wagon factory. It was located on the corner of Locust and West 3rd Street.



Prophetstown, 1959 Day .....



..... And Night



Old City Hall



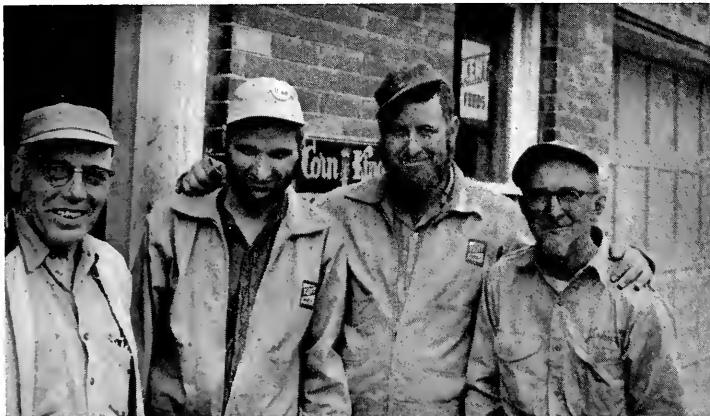
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Prophetstown, Illinois



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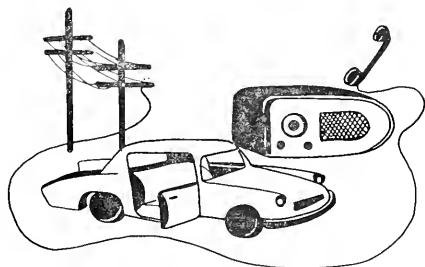
Telephone 5431

# From Economic Growth to Depression

*Our mythical sentinel on Thunderbolt now witnesses an era of scientific brilliance. The major miracles of electricity, the gasoline engine, radio and telephone are altering everyone's way of life. The following notes, taken from newspaper accounts beginning at the turn of the century cannot record these changes which took place too gradually to be discernable but they may refresh a memory.*

At a meeting of the town council, Jan. 6, 1900, there were the usual bills and discussions, mainly about putting in permanent sidewalks. Seemed then, as now, dogs sometimes overflowed the town, making it necessary to kill some. A bill of \$1.50 was presented the council, and was allowed, for the burial of dead dogs. Winter weather, too, ran about like 1959—plenty of ice and snow, which caused the low-lands to be flooded with water until April 7, when the ice gorge broke on "big island" and the water was gone from the bottoms in a few hours.

But a good ice crop in those days was a thing of joy. N. C. Warner reaped a good harvest that

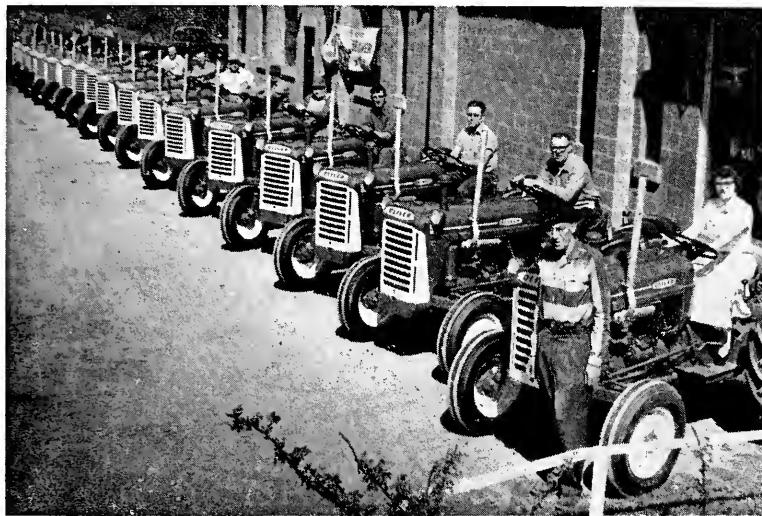


year and came out with a new wagon for delivering ice. It was a vivid yellow with "ICE" painted on each side in big black letters. This was in May and it was getting warmer each day.

The fifteenth class of the high school held its commencement exercises June 9 with 12 graduates. The subject of one girl's address was, "After Graduation, What for Girls?"

The walks in front of the Eureka Hotel were a disgrace, so it asked the town for new board walks. However, many brick and cement walks were being installed at this time. H. C. Besee completed the census of Prophetstown June 23. The population was 1,100. On this day, W. J. Thomp-





# SOLIDAY FARM EQUIPMENT



**Sales & Service**

Prophetstown, Ill.

Telephone 2641



Fourth of July — Prophetstown — 1897

son urged the ladies, in his ad, to keep cool and lovely in one of his summer corsets at 30, 50 and 98 cents. He also had sunbonnets for 15 cents each.

Prophetstown celebrated the 4th of July with a parade featuring a band. There were also patriotic speeches and you could refresh yourself at a lemonade stand to be found anywhere about town. The saloons were open and well patronized, but no arrests were made. Marshal Lewis was able to handle law and order all by himself. In the evening, there was dancing at Shole's Hall and fireworks.

Messrs. McNeill, Kempster, Hill and Richards, had a steamboat built 14x50, powered by a 12 HP steam engine capable of navigating in a 12 foot channel. It was strictly a pleasure boat and a winter trip on the Mississippi River was planned.

It was hot in July, 1900—boys, yes, even men were going in swimming in "birthday clothes" at the mouth of Coon Creek. Town orders this to be stopped or else. August 18, hunters were warned to let those prairie chickens alone until the season opens, or else, too.

An enterprising farmer sold 200 head of cattle to Middelton for \$11,543.

Groceries in 1902 appear to us now to have been extremely low priced, such as 10 pounds of coffee, \$1.00; Old Country long-cut smoking tobacco, 25 cents per pound and 3 cans of peas for 25 cents. Good grade muslin sold for 5½ cents a yard and percale for 8 to 10 cents per yard.

Fifty alumni were present for the annual meeting at the high school in June. One morning that month there were ninety tickets sold to passengers at the local depot, who were either going

to Tampico or Walnut. (could they have been shoppers?).

Sidewalks were much of the town's worries in early 20th century and now June 21, 1902, someone conceived the idea that an 8 foot walk was entirely too narrow and cited the town board to look at other towns and see what wide walks they had—10 to 16 feet. "Why couldn't Prophetstown get out of a rut and widen its walks, and while we are about it, let's get rid of hitching posts and quit making a barnyard out of Main St."

January, 1903 saw the completion of two brick buildings 54x70 ft. by F. P. Dudley at 351 Washington at a cost of over \$10,000. The Citizen's Bank building at 338 Washington was also completed that month.

The village board called a meeting for the purpose of abolishing card playing in saloons and to stop betting on games at the bowling alley.

It is worth a look through the Echos of early and middle 1900's just to see the elaborately displayed



July 4, 1903

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
from the  
**OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**  
OF

**FIRST TRUST AND  
SAVINGS BANK**

OF ALBANY, ILLINOIS

E. Don Hanson, President  
D. V. Potter, Vice President  
Lillian M. Lewis, Cashier  
Wesley J. Pessman  
Roy VenHuizen  
Irene E. Hanson  
E. J. Dolan

Member F. D. I. C.

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Full line of Plumbing Fixtures  
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**FAIRBANKS-MORSE**

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Buyers of Eggs and Hens

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We dress poultry for lockers and home freezers.

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**SELANDER AND JONES**

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FOR ALL CEMENT WORK

WE DELIVER

404 EAST

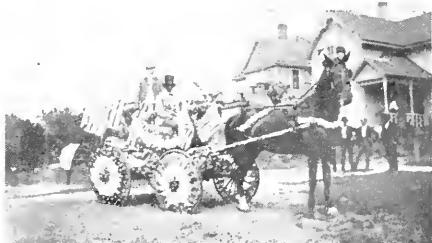
TELE. 5811

ads of the many patent medicines on the market at that time. In most cases, the ad features a very beautiful lady just radiating health and happiness and all because she had taken . . . . and regained complete health, "thanks to your wonderful tonic".

S. E. Eakle of the Leon Community bought the Lamont farm on Washington St. Road for \$80 an acre and sold it in a very short time for \$115, the highest price paid for land in this community.

Our village is progressing—the citizens met to look over plans for waterworks and the Echo becomes a 7-column, 8-page paper, the only one in the county with the exception of the Sterling Standard. In April, there was talk of an electric railway from Rock Falls to Rock Island and it was hoped that Prophetstown would be included enroute. The talk went on for many years and that was all that ever became of it, but at times it did look favorable.

A town election was held to vote on the liquor question at which 329 votes were polled for and 99 against the sale of liquor. A fire in the P. W. Kempster & Co. oil room made the citizens more waterworks conscious. A fire of real mention which destroyed eight buildings, totaling a loss of \$30,000, solved the question. There was a bond issue for the waterworks and it carried.



An Early Parade Float

The closing of 1903 proves that it sometimes takes many years to carry out improvements—there was considerable talk for the consolidation of rural schools at the close of 1903.

The First National Bank declared a dividend of 10 percent and increased its capital stock from \$40,000 to \$60,000. A lecture at Leon Church "War Against Tobacco" followed a 25 cent chicken pie supper.

May 25, the soldier's monument was erected in the cemetery by the GAR. Ads in the Echo of June 4 featured calicos, ladies' hosiery in light blue, red, white and fancy embroidered black at 25 cents a pair. Men's suits only \$18. Then there



An Errant Jackson Automobile Heartens the Horse and Buggy Enthusiasts.

# *more Mothers buy*

# *Borden's*



## FIRST IN THE NATION

Mothers all over the nation and right here too, have learned to rely on pure, rich and wholesome Borden's milk for finest quality. That's why *more mothers* buy Borden's milk than any other brand. Your family, too, deserves to enjoy the best. Start serving Borden's today.

IF IT'S BORDEN'S IT'S GOT TO BE GOOD!

It's got to be good to be FIRST! It's got to be good to STAY first!



1913 Scene of Brick Laying on Washington Street

were windmills, buggies and horseblankets. Eggs were retailing for 15 cents a doz. and hogs were selling for \$5.62½ per cwt.; steers, \$6.60 per cwt. In July, the merchants voted to close the stores at 6 o'clock one night each week for that month.

The waterworks for the town was realized in November, 1904, at a cost of \$14,830.22. There was an engine house of brick 24'x24'; 2½ miles of main; 27 hydrants; a hose cart; 400 feet of hose; a well 8 feet in diameter and a pump with a capacity of 250,000 gals. in 24 hours. Glancing through the pages of the *Echos* from now on when there was a fire, one can't help sense the feeling of satisfaction and gratitude everyone had for the waterworks of Prophetstown.

F. P. Dudley opened an opera house which for many years featured very good stage shows and later became a silent movie theatre.

E. C. Dodge Company of Wisconsin opened a creamery here on now E. 3rd. St. The company later built a new concrete block building, which is now part of the Eclipse factory on E. Railroad St. After a time there, the business was moved to Tampico.

The summer of 1906 is a remarkable one in Prophetstown, for Billy Sunday, the noted evangelist, conducted meetings here for four weeks in a large tabernacle. It is said, that one Sunday there were three services and a total of 4,000 people attended during the day. There were a great

many conversions and free will offerings amounted to \$2,500. After these meetings, the people were aroused to the need of a YMCA and a great deal of work was given to this project, but it never materialized.

Dr. J. H. Mosher, prominent physician, purchased his first automobile, a Reo, for \$1,355 and a Buick agency was opened by P. W. Kempster and Amos Ott.

Caused by an ice gorge, the Rock River on Jan. 14, 1907, rose to its highest point since 1868. Oxbow farm lost stock amounting to \$4,000.

Cars were plentiful in 1907—on May 16, it was reported there were 13 car owners in town. One farmer on Washington St. Road sought to stop the heavy traffic past his farm; so stretched a rope across the road. The rope was severed before there was an accident.



Ice Harvesting

THIS BOOK PUBLISHED

by

# The Prophetstown Echo

'The Only Newspaper at the Only Prophetstown in the World'

Congratulations to Prophetstown on its

100th ANNIVERSARY

# The Prophetstown Echo

DON and LEONA BROOKS, Publishers

Larry Weston, Bessie Lanphere, Neil Oppendike, Eddie Selander

THE  
PROPHETSTOWN CENTENNIAL  
INC.

Proudly Presents

**“BY THESE WATERS”**

A JOHN B. ROGERS SPECTACULAR

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC FIELD

JULY 1-2-3-4 at 8:45 P.M.

Produced and Directed by  
**JOSEPH COLE SIMMONS**

BY THESE WATERS is based on Historical Fact. Slight Changes have been made to meet the demands of Staging and for Dramatic Effect.

COSTUMES, SCENERY, AND LIGHTING BY  
**JOHN B. ROGERS PRODUCING CO.**  
**FOSTORIA, OHIO**

# "BY THESE WATERS"

## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

### PROLOGUE

A fanfare of trumpets heralds the entrance of "Miss Prophetstown" and the Centennial Princesses. The Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, Sailorettes, Indian Princesses, Cadets and Cast present a Panorama of Pagentry in honor of Her Majesty and the Court of Honor.

### Episode I: IN THE BEGINNING

Here we see the first inhabitant of what has now become our Prophetstown . . . The Red Man, Wabokieshie, The Prophet, meets with his warrior friend, Blackhawk, and the ceremony of the Calumet is performed as we pay tribute to the first inhabitants of the Rock River area.

### Episode II: THE FIRST AMERICAN

Indeed, the Indian was the first American. Their ideals and their customs differed with those of the white man, but the Indians had their own superstitions and beliefs. The beautiful Indian Ballet signifies the consecration to the spirits. The Winnebago Maidens perform the Dance of The Green Corn.

### Episode III: WESTWARD HO!

Whiteside County is laid out! Asa Crook, the first settler gives us an inside look at the early settlers' lives, their heartbreak and sorrow, their loves and their insatiable desire to brave the unknown.

### Episode IV: PATH OF THE CROSS

Asa Crook's house was the site of the first religious service held in Prophetstown. The early pioneer in this area brought with him, his tools, his family, his determination, and most of all, his faith in God.

### Episode V: THE THREE R'S

Prophetstown quickly became aware of the need to educate the young. An amusing scene in the first school conducted by Miss Lovica Hamilton proves beyond a doubt that even in those days children were still children!

### Episode VI: CHAPTER IN BLACK

Prophetstown had barely got over celebrating its incorporation in 1859 when, like a thunderbolt, dissection struck and our nation became divided. We see the moving speech from Gettysburg that was so instrumental in the reformation of these United States.

### Episode VII: COMING OF THE IRON HORSE

The courage of the citizens of Prophetstown is once more rewarded, for now we witness the fruit of many hard years of waiting and sacrifice. Contributions had repeatedly drained the purses and still yielded no railroad in the town. Finally, the courage and perseverance of the early settlers paid off: In 1871 The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy line was finished and Prophetstown had her railroad!

### Episode VIII: GAY 90'S

Bikes, bustles, and mustaches! Grandmam's era was filled with fun and excitement. The 4th of July picnic down on the river was the big celebration in Prophetstown! This day the citizens were in for something very unusual!!

### Episode IX: WORLD WAR I

1914! The people of Prophetstown heard the rumblings of war. Hands across the sea plead for help, and the citizens answer the call! We pay tribute to those who served . . . and to those who did not return.

### Episode X: THE ROARING 20'S

Flivvers, flappers, and flag-pole sitters. It was the age of bobbed hair, hip flasks, and two cars in every garage! The war to end wars was over . . . a carefree nonchalance replaced "Over There" and, of course, there was the dance craze of the nation . . . The Charleston!

### Episode XI: TEPID 30'S

Bankruptcy! Suicide! Headlines! With the rest of the nation, Prophetstown tightened her belt and waited. Then the answer came: The Works Progress Administration.

### Episode XII: WORLD WAR II

December 7, 1941 . . . and Prophetstown is shocked, for once again the terror of war falls on the ears of people just getting over the depression. All America stood in awe at the horrors of modern warfare. We stand in reverence to those who served so gallantly. Indeed let us pray . . . lest we forget!

### Episode XIII: THE ATOMIC AGE

1945! Our first look at the Atomic Bomb! What will man do with his discovery? In one blaze will all things be gone? The Empire State . . . the Parthenon? Must the sudden atom's flash turn cities and statues and poems to ashes? Only tomorrow can tell.

### FINALE

The entire cast comes forward to salute the future. Our tomorrow is built on understanding and reverence towards our yesterday. Stand here today and see tomorrow!

### FIREWORKS

The Illinois Fireworks Company presents a thrilling pyrotechnic display! A brilliant climax to "THESE WATERS".

## CAST—“BY THESE WATERS”

**“PROLOGUE”** Sponsored By: Cheerleaders, Majorettes, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies, Cubs, Amer. Legion.

**NARRATORS:** Rev. Nelson Chasteen, Leah Ewalt, Idabelle Wildman, Avis Nelson, George Matthews

**THE PROPHET:** V. R. Olmstead

**BLACKHAWK:** Niel Robinson

**TRUMPETERS**—Beth Robinson, Donna Farrell, Lynette Edlund, Jerry Detra, Linda Stokes.

**GIRL SCOUTS**—Jody Toppert, Marsha Swanson, Linda Stokes, Trudy Roman, Susan Moore, Susan Metzner, Joan May, Rita Rae Maes, Jeralyn Sue Johnson, Diane Hoogerwerf, Ann Hamilton, Jean Ann Thompson, Cathy Swanson, Jeannie Schuneman, Patsy Nuelle, Vera Lea Meyer, Bridget McNeil, Jane Mathis, Becky Jorgensen, Nyla Hunsberger, Rita Hill, Sheri Gentz, Penny James, Connie Mattson, Donna Selander, Linda Fisk, Donna Delsing, Linda Bender, Kathy Gardner, Kathleen Dorothy, Christie Brown, Lynn Bauer.

**BROWNIES**—Phyllis Saupe, Debra McNeill, Kathleen Holland,

**EPISODE I—“IN THE BEGINNING”**

Sponsored By: Prophetstown Profit Makers 4-H Club, Jerry Dail, Karen Mulcay, Karen Newlon, Sharon Morris, Susan Moews, Carol Kerkering, Jan Roman, Beth Detra, Mary S. Anderson, Marilou Waite, Eileen Schehl, Idonna Morse, Virginia Detra,

**EPISODE II—“THE FIRST AMERICAN”**

Same as Episode I

**EPISODE III—“WESTWARD HO”**

Sponsored By: Tuesday Evening Club, Community Mixers Home Bureau

Mrs. Phillip Farrell, Ruth Schutti, Glenn Schutti, Paul Detra, Larry Joe DeNeve, Mrs. Lawrence DeNeve, Mrs. Eugene Frey, Mary DeNeve, Ernest Buck, Larry Wagenecht, Carlene Sawyer, Dale Wagenecht, Mrs. Frank Fotzler, Nancy Neumann, Bill Anderson, Wilma Matthews, Eileen Detra, Frank Schehl, Mrs. Frank Schehl,

**EPISODE IV—“PATH OF THE CROSS”**

Dorothy Kilberg, Mrs. Dale Sibley, Mrs. Charles Lancaster, Mrs. Floy Aylsworth Jones, Mrs. Ward Scott, Ted Taber, Mrs. Glen Lancaster, Leslie Kilberg, Elmer E. Johnson, Charles Lancaster, Dale Sibley, Mrs. Elmer E. Johnson, Linda Stokes, Rose Thor-

**EPISODE V—“THE THREE R’S”**

Sponsored By: The Royal Neighbors of America  
Connie Sue Swanson, Ronni Swanson, Diane Clinton Brooks, Susan Dorothy, Linda Kennedy, James Dennis, Linda Dennis, Thomas Lanphere, Neil K. Swanson, Marsha Ann Brooks, Kathleen Dorothy, John Kennedy, Kathryn Anne Dennis, Michael

**EPISODE VI—“CHAPTER IN BLACK”**

Gary Bauer, Mary Beth Bauer, Eileen Castelein, Mrs. Bill Conroy, Dennis Conroy, Mary Conroy, Mr. Art DeReu, Lynn DeReu, Eileen Schehl, Mrs. Ernest J. Verhulst, Rita VanDeMark, Cindy Morris, Clellan Morris, Frieda Wyckhuys, Mark Bauer, Leo Castelein, Mr. ABRAHAM LINCOLN: Ralph Matthews

**EPISODE VII—“THE COMING OF THE IRON HORSE”**

Same as Episode VI

**EPISODE VIII—“THE GAY 90'S”**

**LILIAN RUSSELL:** Kay Farrell

Sponsored By: West Hume Ladies' Club Wa-Tan-Ye  
Carlyle Sandrock, Betty Sandrock, Mrs. Carlyle Sandrock, Cathy Sandrock, Dean Sandrock, Fred Sandrock, Thomas Lanphere, Bessie Lanphere, Kenneth Hansen, Bonnie Hansen, Marilyn R. Stefkern, Verna Mildred Fotzler, Art Fotzler, Helen Sandrock,

Floradora Quartet - Sponsored By: Leon Methodist Men's Club

Donald Bollivar, Gerald J. Peters, Edna Weber, Paul Weber, Mrs. Donald Bollivar, Gladys Peters, Warren Weber, Amy Jean Weber.

Bathing Beauties - Sponsored By: Leon Wide-Awakes 4-H Club

Becky Rasei, Sharon Gantz, Terry Boone, Connie Thornton, Beverly Stewart.

Can-Can Dancers - Sponsored By: Portland Community Club

Janice Bradley, Sandy Moews, Marilyn Melton, Kay F. Johnson, Barbara Reul, Dorothy Moews, Joyce Bennett, Eileen Anderson, Betty Stralow.

**EPISODE IX—“WORLD WAR I”**

Sponsored By: Portland Social Club—Gail Goodell, Frank Fotzler, Doug Sandrock

**EPISODE X—“THE ROARING 20'S”**

Cina Randall, Carol Kerkering, Susan A. Moews.  
**CHARLESTON DANCERS**—Tom Robinson, Leo Castelein, Laura Upton, Beverly Adolf, Jim Johnson, Dick Fotzler, Barbara Aooh,

Candy Gentz, Vicki Franks, Ann Finnecum, Susan Dorothy, Mary Draper, Linda Bruckner, Beverly Allen, Debra Jo Ross, Brenda Matson, Beth Hamilton, Ann Gardner, LeEtta Frank, Tamra Draper, Connie Dorothy, Linda Bruckner, Anita Sue Brown, Cathy Verwer, Connie Bauer.

**BOY SCOUTS**—Lyle Upton, John McMillan, Rodney Clarquist, Mark Wilkinson, David Tenley, Jeff Kiner, Jim Moews, Nate Brown, Lynne Clarquist.

**CUB SCOUTS**—Steve Ackeberg, Ronnie May, Mark Mulcay, Larry Mattson.

**COLORGUARDS**—Robert W. Hummel, Royal A. Jackson, Marvin Albrecht, Robert Frain, Robert Benstrom, Dean Hansen.

**Prophetstown High School**

Cina Randall, Anita Weber, Judy Newlon, Linda Johnson, Keith Blackert, Bob Wirth, George R. Perkins, Jerry Oberle, Gary Bauer, Bob Wirth, Ronald D. Mickley, Stanley Robinson, Jon Kiner.

**Gloria Schutti, Robert Eugene Frey, Lawrence DeNeve, Mrs. Ernest Buck, Joyce Wagenecht, Ernest Sawyer, Rita Wagenecht, Frank Fotzler, Mrs. Lenola Neumann, Robert E. Anderson, Shirley J. Anderson, George Matthews, George E. Neumann, Lynne McKenna, Pam McKenna, Eugene Frey, Fritz DeNeve.**

mahlen, Jim Brady, John Brady, Howard Burdsall, Glen L. Lancaster, Lawrence Kiner, Mrs. Lawrence Kiner, Cecil Olinger, Elvira Z. Burdsall, Ann Hamilton, Beth Hamilton, Sharon Chasen.

Dennis, Paula Church, Kathy Sue Lanphere.

**SCHOOL GIRL DANCE**—Sally Mathis, Dolores Beechel, Beth Robinson, Lynette Edlund, Sharon Morris, Eileen Schehl, Marilou Waite, Jerri Dail, Susan Moews, Karen Newlon, Karen Mulcay.

Bill Conroy, Mrs. William Conroy, Dottie Lou Conroy, William Conroy, Mrs. Art DeReu, Karen Newlon, Ernest J. Verhulst, Allan M. VanDeMark, Alice Morris, Johnee Wyckhuys, Ed Maes, Mrs. Ed Maes.

David Lee Matthews, Hazel Sandrock, Douglas Sandrock, Frank Lanphere, Kathy Sue Lanphere, Mildred Hansen, Frances Hansen, Robert O. Stefkern.

Karen Mulcay, Karen Newlon, Marilou Waite, Anita Weber, Judy Newlon, Linda Johnson.

**EPISODE XI—“THE TEPID THIRTIES”**

Cast members from other scenes.

**EPISODE XII—“WORLD WAR II”**

Robert W. Hummel, Royal A. Jackson, Marvin Albrecht, Robert Frain, Robert Benstrom, Dean Hansen

**EPISODE XIII—“THE ATOMIC AGE”**

Same as Episode XII

**FINALE:** Entire Cast



THE BROTHERS



THE SISTERS O'



OF THE BRUSH



THE SWISH



### 1959 New and Old City Council

Arnold Waite, Mayor L. K. Groharing, City Clerk Mable Harms, Alex Bolhous,  
George Sibley.

Ross Morgan, Leslie Kilberg, Robert Herald, C. A. Conrad, city treasurer;  
Everette Brown, Abram Thompson.



### Centennial Planning Committee and Division Heads

M. L. Kemp, Mayor Groharing, Harold Plautz, Mrs. C. A. Conrad, C. A.  
Conrad.

Dwight Stokes, F. L. Dudley, Roger Kerkering, Randall Tenley.

Arnold Waite, Mrs. Robert Herald, Louis Hummel, R. O. Siefken.

Don Brooks, Eddie Lindskog, R. G. Rawland, Donald L. Sipe.

# Patrons Ticket Holders

Mr. and Mrs. Theo. Taber  
Mrs. Clara Baldwin  
J. H. Hamilton, Sheriff  
Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Clausen  
Mr. and Mrs. Chauncey Conrad  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Herald  
Mabel M. Brown, D.O.  
Mr. Cecil Olinger  
Farmers' National Bank  
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Fisk  
Paxson Sisters  
Mr. and Mrs. Ward Scott  
Mr. and Mrs. C. Deane Frary  
Mr. and Mrs. Don Frary  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Fenn  
Mrs. G. H. Haight  
Mr. and Mrs. Don Sipe  
Mr. and Mrs. George Yager  
Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Mathis  
Mr. and Mrs. Randall Tenley  
Mr. and Mrs. Jess Urick  
Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Olsson  
Mrs. Minnie Olinger  
Mr. and Mrs. Walt Sommers  
Mr. and Mrs. D. O. Bayles  
Miss Hazel Wait  
Mr. and Mrs. Earl Martin  
Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Breed  
Dr. and Mrs. G. W. Nelson  
J. L. Ribble  
Gibson Bros. Oil  
Gracey Fur Shop, Dixon

C. H. McGinn  
Bob Propheter Construction Co.  
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Anderson  
Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Waite  
Mr. and Mrs. Dean Gardner  
Mr. and Mrs. Alex Bolhous  
M/Sgt. and Mrs. C. W. Martin  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Burdsall  
Mrs. Mary McGrady  
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Lyon  
Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Hammelman  
Mrs. Eva Fisk  
Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Blair  
Mr. and Mrs. Buel Brewer  
Mrs. Wm. Hagel  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Matthews  
Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Matthews  
Mr. and Mrs. Clark Obendorf  
Miss Jeanette Obendorf  
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Cornelius  
Miss Linda Cornelius  
Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Lyon  
Mrs. Harry Hammond  
Mr. and Mrs. Lysle Soliday  
C. K. Willett, Construction Engineer  
Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Scott  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schomerus  
Clinton Block Co.  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dudley  
Miss Beverly Stewart  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Stewart  
Mrs. Mabel Harms

Sutton Brothers  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Emery  
Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Clary  
Miss LeEta Frank  
Master Roger Frank  
Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Frank  
Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Wildman  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Moore  
Mr. C. Neal Turner  
Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Cady  
Mr. and Mrs. Marshall DeMey  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bergonz  
Rock Island Mill Works  
Mr. and Mrs. L. K. Groharing  
Mr. and Mrs. Val Johnson  
Mrs. Myrtle McDougall  
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Pierceson  
Jim Fisk Family  
Miss Lilah Weburg  
Mr. and Mrs. Abe Thompson  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Thormahlen  
Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Lancaster  
Mrs. Lena Aylsworth  
Mrs. Floy Aylsworth Jones  
The Daily Gazette, Sterling  
Mrs. Lauretta Roth Schlauch  
Mrs. Marvin Thomsen  
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Plautz  
Senator and Mrs. Dennis J. Collins  
The Honorable Geo. and Mrs. Brydia  
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Brewer  
Mr. and Mrs. Quincey Kemmis  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Clark

# Queen's Prizes

Week's Trip to New York City at New Yorker Hotel

A Clock—Gambles Store

Silver Plate Bowl—Ikora Importers, Inc.

Necklace Set—Weburg Jewelry

Seven Piece Glass Set—West Virginia Glass Co.

RCA Clock Radio—Sommers Song Shop

Jamaica Shorts and Matching Blouse—Washington Manufacturing Co.

Three-Pc. Matched Samsonite Luggage Set—Peterson's Department Store

Two Purses—Apparel Shop

\$5.00 Gift Certificate—J. C. Penny

One Set Boontonware—Ace Hardware

\$25.00 Gift Certificate—John D. VanAllen & Sons

Bottle White Shoulders Perfume—C. W. Fenn & Son

Imprinted Stationery and Lifetime Subscription To Prophetstown Echo—Echo

Portable Radio—Western Auto Store

Bathing Suit—DeAnne's Shop

Eight Goblets of Fostoria—Herald's Drug Store

# Lineup of Events

## SUNDAY, JUNE 28 — Faith of Our Fathers Day

8-11:30 a.m. Morning Worship in All Local Churches  
8 p.m. Out Door Service, Athletic Field; An all church devotional and musical program featuring youth choir of Andover.

5-7 p.m. Dinner at Grade School  
8 p.m. Sisters of the Swish Parade, Athletic Field.  
8:15 p.m. Presentation of Pioneer King and Queen.  
8:45 p.m. "By These Waters" Pageant, Athletic Field  
10:15 p.m. Fireworks Display.

## MONDAY, JUNE 29 — Old Fashioned Bargain Day

Bargains all day in stores of Prophetstown  
9 a.m. Centennial Headquarters, Hospitality Center Open  
2 p.m. Kangaroo Court Session  
4 p.m. Kangaroo Court Session

## TUESDAY, JUNE 30 — Old Fashioned Bargain Day

Bargains all day in stores of Prophetstown  
2 p.m. Kangaroo Court Session  
4 p.m. Kangaroo Court Session  
9 p.m. Centennial Ball — Eddie Howard and his orchestra

## FRIDAY, JULY 3 — New Frontier Day

(For high school and college age youth, 14-22)  
9 a.m. Headquarters, Hospitality, Carnivals open.  
10 a.m. Turkey Shoot at Wayne Smith Farm, .8 miles south on Rte. 78  
10:30 a.m. Sisters of the Swish Style Show and judging at Congregational Church.  
11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m. Lunch at Grade School  
1 p.m. Rolle Bolle Tournament  
1:30 p.m. Archery Shoot, Log Pulling Contest, State Park  
2:30 Tug of War, State Park  
4 p.m. Greased Pig Chase  
\*Youth's Kangaroo Court in Session during Afternoon  
5-7 p.m. Dinner at Grade School  
8 p.m. Youth's Past and Future Fashion Show, Athletic Field  
8:45 p.m. "By These Waters" Pageant, Athletic Field  
9:30 p.m. Youth's Dance and Dessert Box Social, Grade School  
10:15 Fireworks Display.

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 1 — Kid's Day

9 a.m. Street Carnival Rides and Concessions open.  
10 a.m. Kid's Day Parade  
11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m. Lunch at Grade School gym, served by Lutheran ALCW.  
1 p.m. Kid's Day Games and Contests  
2 p.m. Kangaroo Court  
4 p.m. Kangaroo Court  
5-7 p.m. Dinner at Grade School  
8 p.m. Kid's Day Winners Announced, prizes awarded  
8:45 p.m. "By These Waters" Pageant, Athletic Field  
10:15 p.m. Fireworks Display, Athletic Field.

## SATURDAY, JULY 4 — Old Glory Day

9 a.m. Headquarters, Hospitality, Carnival open.  
9:30 a.m. Flag Raising Ceremony, Washington and Railroad Streets.  
9:50 a.m. Merchants drawing for Bargain Days Registrant  
10 a.m. Parade  
10:30 — 1 p.m. Lunch at Grade School gym  
1 p.m. Horse Show  
5-7 Dinner at Grade School  
7:30 p.m. Beard Judging Contest  
8:00 p.m. Remington Rand shaving Contest.  
8:30 p.m. Time Capsule Memorial Service  
8:45 p.m. "By These Waters" Pageant, Athletic Field  
10:15 p.m. Gigantic Fireworks Display open to the public after conclusion of Pageant.  
10:45 p.m. Time Capsule Burial Procession.

## THURSDAY, JULY 2 — Pioneer Day

9 a.m. Headquarters, Hospitality Centers, Carnival open.  
10 a.m. Threshing Exhibition  
11:30 — 1 p.m. Lunch at Grade School served by Congregational Women's Fellowship.  
12 noon Tractor Pulling Contest east on Rte. 172 across from Brookhaven.  
4 p.m. Kangaroo Court



Feed Mill Before Fire of 1915

P. W. Kempster & Co. Hardware Store and warehouse burned in January, 1908, at a loss of \$48,000. The east part of the building now occupied by International Harvester Co. and Ray Mulcahy is the brick building replaced by Mr. Kempster in 1910.

With cars now so numerous it was assumed the practice of stealing horses would be abandoned; so the Horse Thief Detective Club voted to disband in 1908.

A building boom hit Prophetstown in 1910. At one time there were 14 buildings under construction.

The mud on Main Street became a problem during a January thaw in 1911. The council gave the merchants permission to dump their ashes in the holes, provided they used precaution and did not put them in the gutters.

The census showed Prophetstown had a population of 1,083 in 1911, a decline from the 1,300 residents in 1880.

Improvements and changes in our community this year included a new ladies' waiting room in



The Present Feed Mill

McBride's feed shed and livery at a cost of \$200; the old Leon Church built in 1881 was moved to the Henry Stewart farm and George Fisk built the largest barn in Whiteside County.

One could purchase a set of dentures in 1911 for \$6, a crown for \$4 and bridgework for \$4.

Dreamland Movie was opened in the Sholes building, now the Town Theatre.

During the fall and winter months, George Drummet sold 320 acres of land for \$125 an acre; a hog cholera epidemic hit the community and 10 to 15 hogs died a day on the Geo. Warner farm. Vaccination had not come into use at this time for the University of Illinois advised giving medicine to the animals to overcome the disease.

In the way of progress, the Thursday Club raised \$157.25 for the purpose of organizing a city band. The Methodist Church rebuilt the parsonage barn after a fire caused considerable damage. It was enlarged because more room was needed for hay. Gene Underhill bought the first corn picker for \$400. A tornado hit town late in April damaging buildings and trees. Marshal John



Deering Display By the Kempster and Arnett Agency

Needless  
Causes of  
ACCIDENTS



- Speed causes 3 out of 10 fatalities. Don't speed when you drive.
- Alcohol is the second greatest factor in highway deaths. Don't drink when you drive.
- Obstruction to Vision is involved in 1 out of 7 fatal accidents. Make sure windshieldwipers work properly.
- Fatigue is an often overlooked, but major killer. Don't drive when you're tired.
- Defective Vehicles figures in over 3000 fatal accidents last year. Have your car checked regularly.
- Jaywalking accounts for nearly *all* pedestrian accidents. When walking, always cross at intersections.

STOP ACCIDENTS  
STOP IN FOR A SAFETY  
CHECK BEFORE YOUR TRIP



JOHN'S

CITIES SERVICE STATION

"the handiest corner in town"

Now Higher  
than ever!

Highest Octane Ever Offered!  
Cities Service

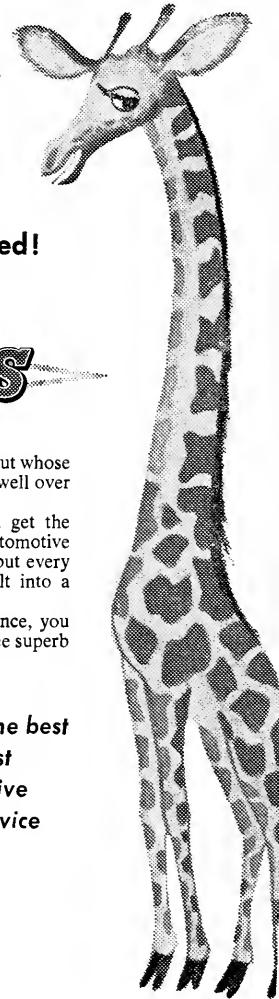
**NEW<sup>100</sup> PLUS**

Here's a gasoline whose name may be imitated but whose quality remains unsurpassed...a gasoline with well over 100 octane!

Now, in Cities Service new 100 Plus, you get the highest octane, the finest performance in automotive history...not just power and longer mileage, but every worthwhile protective feature that can be built into a motor fuel!

If you want the ultimate in luxury performance, you want Cities Service new 100 Plus...one of three superb fuels at Cities Service stations.

You drive with the best  
by every test  
when you drive  
with Cities Service





Remember These — Bicycle and Swing?

Lewis completed his 12th year sleeping in the Citizen's Bank.

H. C. Adams bought an Enger automobile from Simon Keiser for \$1750 in 1913.

This is the year that Prophetstown paved Main Street. The work began in August and was completed November 15, which was ahead of time stated in the contract. Exactly 370,000 bricks were laid on a sand bed at a cost of \$18,000. There was not doubt in the minds of the citizens, and they so stated, that this was one improvement in the town that would last until the youngest child here was 100 years old. Of course, this called for a celebration and it was in the form of a barbecue on the vacant lot west of Kempster's garage. It was estimated that 3,000 people attended and consumed 430 pounds of meat, 1800 buns, 10 gallons of milk, 14 quarts of mustard.

In February, 1914, good beef steak was selling for 20 cents a pound at Brydia's store; pot roast, 15 cents; hamburger, 16 cents; pork steak, 17 cents and sausage, 15 cents.

The council voted to pave one block on 3rd. St. and one block on Lafayette Street.

The first installment of a serial, "Meridiosia Days" by R. R. Kiner appeared in "Sports and Field" magazine in March.

While harvesting ice on the river, two teams of horses fell through while pulling the ice cutter. After two hours they were rescued by putting ropes around their necks and pulling them out. There was a plentiful supply of ice that year; 4,000 tons were harvested and stored in local ice houses.

It seems this locality has always had the reputation of producing pork in large amounts. During a three day period in March, 1915, 3,470 porkers were sold netting \$60,000.

Eclipse Lawn Mower Company purchased automobiles for its salesmen as a means of covering their territories.

William Pettit, widely known for his sorghum and cider-making, had a thousand bushels of apples on hand at one time in 1915 from which he made cider.

Real estate developments in 1916 included the 2-story brick building on the west side of Main St. built by H. C. Adams. It was to be used as a garage on the first floor with office rooms above. This is known as the Thede building. Earl Marvel, local contractor, built a concrete block fac-



Looking East on Washington Street



"SHORTY" AND BILL

Congratulations  
**Prophetstown**  
ON YOUR  
**100th Anniversary**

**Bill's Schlitz Tavern**

345 Washington

Phone 3961

tory. The contract was also let for St. Catherine's Church. The Cemetery Ass'n was organized with two hundred signers.

Capt. Wahl of Co. E planned to form a detached platoon here of 34 men in 1917. This was the first gesture in preparation of World War I. It wasn't long before men between the ages of 18 and 45 were registering all over the country. Word came that married men would not be called at this time. There were Liberty Bond and Red Cross drives.

Horses still had the lead in 1917—the assessor's list showed 957 horses and 225 automobiles in the township. Agriculture had become a science and local farmers were requesting a county farm advisor. Someone conceived the idea that light poles did not add to the beauty of Main St. and the council had them removed to the alleys.

A new experience for farmers came in 1918—the government made laws about putting in crops, acreages, etc. Our council realized the inconveniences of using horses and so purchased its first truck, paying \$638 for a Ford chassis. Fire destroyed the recently remodeled Congregational Church, the estimated loss was \$16,000. Insurance coverage was \$9,000. War filled the minds and hearts of the town in 1918. Mrs. Lillie Lanphere sent for sons, Bob, Carl, Emery and Ross, to serve their country. Word was received that Lt. Incé, a former local boy whipped five Huns single-handed. Churches were dedicating service flags. There was a false report of Germany's surrender in October, but Nov. 11 we received the great news of the signing of the armistice. The town went wild in the early morning, celebrating all day and into the night. Whistles blew, the band was out and marched and marched—we even went so far as to "hang the Kaiser". All we could think of was our 160 boys who went "over there" would soon be coming home for as yet no casualties had been received. Later came the news of Harry Glass missing in action and it was hard to believe as his mother had so recently received a letter from him saying he was fine. 1918 also saw that well-remembered Spanish Influenza epidemic. This was the ultimate cause of the deaths of three of our boys,

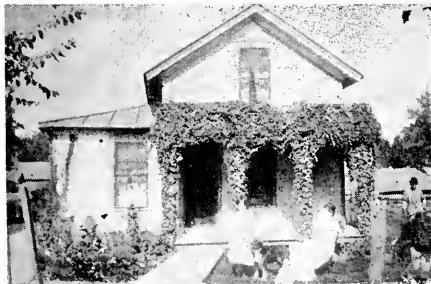


Mrs. Henry C. Adams — Donor of Library

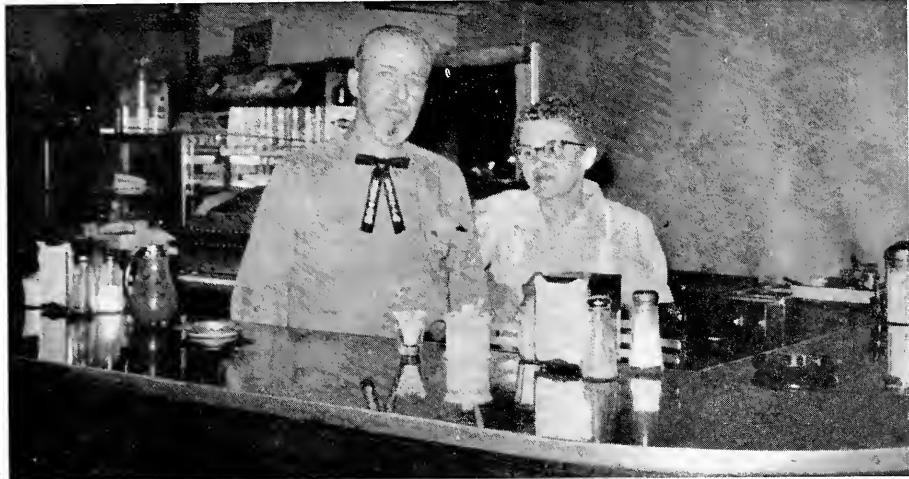
Carl Lanphere, Edward Johnson and Homer Roselieb, in camps. Influenza also broke out in our town in September and extended into the spring of 1919. Not many homes escaped the fast moving epidemic and though our doctors labored so hard, many lives were lost at home too.

Many of our boys were returning home from overseas in 1919 and subscriptions were taken to erect a monument for soldiers from this community. It would be located on Washington and 3rd Street intersection. A big celebration was held for the unveiling of this monument in October.

Farm laborers were offered \$100 per month with board and washing thrown in; and electricity became a commodity on many farms in 1920. Strawberries sold for \$6 a case and hogs were \$13 per cwt. Easter came on April 6 and the day before it was 18 above zero with a 2 inch snow—some people got out their cutters for a brisk spring ride.



Battensby House



## **CORA'S LUNCH**

**Home Cooking**

**Quick Service**

**QUALITY CONSTRUCTION BY**

**Morris Dever Builders Firm**

**Telephone 3501**



Home, Sweet Home

Board of Trade and Whiteside Co. Farm Bureau opened a joint office in the John Houch building and the American Legion was organized. Evidently, a stock yard didn't have a more pleasant aroma in 1920 than in 1959, for we found that Wm. Pettit offered the railroad free land, so as to get it out of town.

The Eclipse Lawn Mower Company built a woodworking shop and foundry on Locust and 4th Streets. In May, the Honorable Wm. J. Bryan, many times candidate for President of the U. S., spoke in the foundry building before a crowd of 1,200 people. His subject was "Brother or Brute"

The first shipment of clam shells from Rock River was made at a price of \$14 a ton. The council let the contract for boulevard lights at a price of \$3,108. The contract called for 17, 5-light posts and 14, 3-light posts. West 3rd Street was widened to 35 feet and curbing installed at a cost of \$1,408. Glenn Daft and J. H. Marshall bought "The Prophetstown Echo".

John Lewis, Prophetstown's revered colored gentleman and many years the town marshal attended Old Settler's Picnic at Lyndon again in 1921 and reported he had not missed a year going to the picnic since 1866. Another of John's yearly affairs was his coon and possum dinner. His guests were folks from all walks of life and came from various sections of the country. John always found a



Did This Prompt Kid's Day?

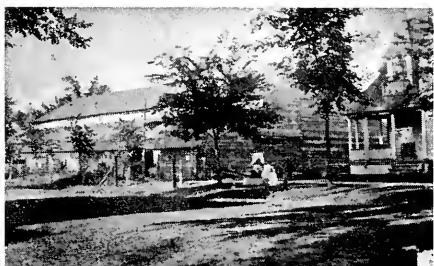
generous free-will gift when folks had gone home in appreciation for the bounteous meal.

In 1922, a passenger Buick touring car sold for \$935 and a Samson tractor brought \$445. No. 2 corn sold for 44 cents a bushel; oats 32 cents a bushel; wheat \$1.15 and Pocahontas egg coal was \$12 a ton.

Lyle Upton rescued Mrs. J. J. Conrad and Mrs. J. A. Dauntler from a tragic death on the Burlington Railroad bridge in 1920 and received a belated Carnegie recognition two years later, 1922. A meeting was held to organize a club for business men to be known as the Prophetstown Community and Commercial Association. A. S. Greene was the president. The American Legion Auxiliary was organized and our Post Office became second class.

Plane rides were sponsored by the American Legion in June, 1922, and 30 passengers participated. It was the first occasion of this kind held here. Parking cars on Main Street was very unsystematic up to this time so the street was marked for parking.

Twelve cases of small pox were reported in town, but the epidemic was of short duration.



The Billy Sunday Tabernacle

Frary & Frary installed a radio to receive market reports in 1923. The city council purchased a lungmotor.

Governor Len Small was the speaker at the 4th of July celebration in 1923.

C. C. Hansen and Alfred Clark let the contract for an artificial ice plant on East Railroad Street.

A 3-inch howitzer cannon from the Charleston Navy Yard was secured for the park.

The Eclipse factory washing machine became a reality in 1924; water meters were installed; manual training was added to our high school curriculum; veterans were notified they would receive their first bonus and The Echo featured its first crossword puzzle, which proved very popular. However, the spring season was very late for farmers and this year they had their first experience with army worms.



## **GEO. THOMPSON & SONS**

**HOG BUYING AND BANG FEEDS**



WE AIM TO GIVE YOU THE BEST IN FOOD  
AT REASONABLE PRICES ALWAYS.

**BEIENS COFFEE SHOP**



Sherman A. Warner Family

Folks had troubles in 1925, too—income blanks were received by single persons with a net income of \$1,000 or more and couples with \$2,500 or more. Well, anyway, only the very rich paid income tax in those days. The city bought land north of town from J. H. Mosher to assure a paved route coming through Prophetstown.

We voted for city form of government and out of the 499 votes cast 160 were against it. Geo. Bridia was the first mayor.

Sim Gould purchased the now Elm Court division of three acres and it was incorporated. He built the two-story brick building on Washington Street now owned by the K. Hansens and occupied by Prophetstown Cleaners. A two-story frame building on the west side of Washington St., built in 1874 by Seyller and Clementz for a hardware store, was razed to make way for the two-story building now occupied by the Federated Store. At one time, Mr. Seyller traded the frame building to Wm. McNeill for 1,000 acres of land, which he still owned in 1926.

Bank deposits increased nearly a half million in the last five years—1922-1927—prosperity was on the way. The Booster Club was organized with Park Theds its first president. Mrs. Minnie Adams gave the library in memory of her husband, the late H. C. Adams. Hogs sold for \$10.40. Our telephone operators began saying, "Number, please" instead of "Prophetstown" and said it to 2,000 local calls and 190 long distance calls in one day. City residents now had mail delivery. Karl McDougall was the first city carrier.

Surveying was started in 1928 for Route 78 and the majority seemed very happy that it would go through town. There was a lot of talk of a new high school and the Booster Club pledged its support. A severe tornado hit the Reese farm south of town near Leon and a fire destroyed Kiner Bros. grocery store, Thompson's millinery, Larson Barber-shop and Charles Richardson's salesroom, which fire was responsible for the addition of a new pumper to the fire department.

Pritchard & Rollo sold Chevrolet touring cars for \$495. Our two banks had resources of \$1,371 - \$73.19. Business was good and our economy was surely on a stable basis.

Electric refrigerators were becoming one of the modern appliances in many homes and business houses in 1929. A depression seemed an impossibility for our banks were better off than three months ago.

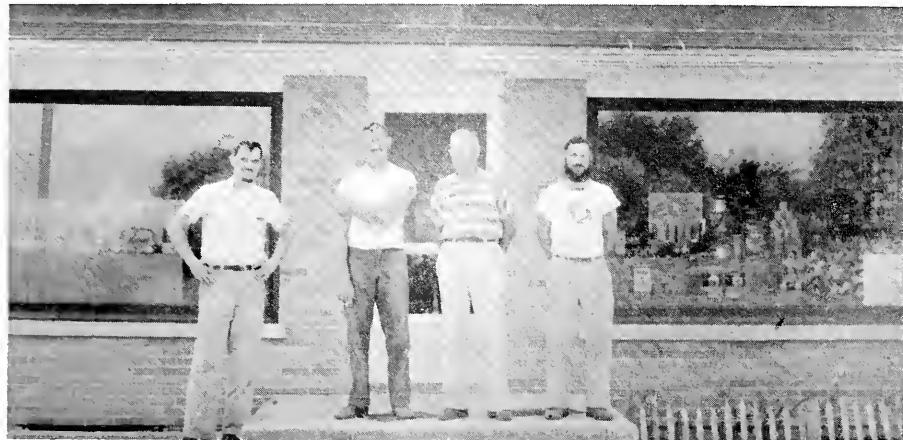
This was the year of the first Rooster-Booster Day. The library and new high school were dedicated.

Report of the Shipping Association in 1930 showed it had paid farmers \$2,300 a day all last year for livestock.

Our population was now 1,353 and we voted two to one in favor of Sunday movies just when prospects were very favorable for both theatres to change from silent to talking movies. At a June meeting of the Booster Club in 1930, Prophetstown's first Kid's Day was planned.



A House Afloat



## **YORKTOWN LUMBER & GRAIN CO., INC.**

Subsidiary of Rock River Lumber & Grain Co.

**LUMBER, GRAIN & COAL**

**P.O. BOX, TAMPICO, ILL.**

## **ALPHONSE DEMAY**

**Exterior  
and  
Interior  
Decorating**



Phone Prophetstown  
**MAJESKI - DeMAY - LINDBERG - SONNENBERG**

# Light Comes to the Prairies

*Sounds too must reach our imaginary viewer from Thunderbolt. The shrill laughter of the school children and the pleasant Sunday silence of community worship cannot have greatly changed. But the history of the development of our churches and schools is the story of a community's search for the better life.*

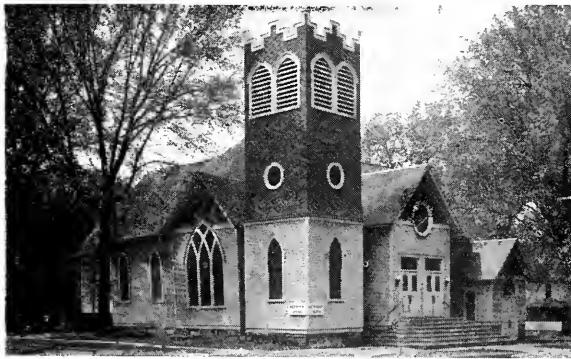


## THE METHODIST CHURCH

The present Methodist Church is an outgrowth of a meeting held in the home of Asa Crook on Christmas Day in 1835 where a group of friends had gathered to visit. A Methodist minister on his way across the prairies to found mission societies stopped at the Crook home to inquire the way, and since he noticed the families represented there, offered to hold a preaching service if they wished. They gladly accepted his offer and a young man

was sent out with his sleigh to invite and bring others to share in the service.

A short time later an arrangement was made with the minister at Elkhorn Grove to hold mid-week services in Prophetstown. In 1836 in the home of N. G. Reynolds the first Methodist society was formed as a mission society and the meetings were held in the various homes.



The first church building was erected in 1864, during the pastorate of Rev. Lewis, the land being donated by P. B. Reynolds. This was the first church in Prophetstown Township. The parsonage was built in about 1892. This church building served until 1895 when the size of the congregation proved the necessity for a new and larger building which

was erected and dedicated March 1, 1896, during the pastorate of Rev. E. S. Holm. The Sunday school was organized about 1923 into a standard Sunday school with graded lessons in all classes. Church services and Sunday school were held in country schools as mission projects during some pastorates.



## THE SCHUNEMAN AGENCY

INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE

Prophetstown, Illinois



## HOOPPOLE LUMBER & GRAIN CO., INC.

Subsidiary of Rock River Lumber & Grain Co.

LUMBER, GRAIN & COAL

HOOPPOLE, ILL.

Again, in 1919, the building seemed too small for the activities of the various organizations and work was started on remodeling and enlarging the church building. At this time a fine new pipe organ was installed, the basement was partly excavated and finished into a furnace room housing a new steam heating plant, a large dining room and a well equipped kitchen. The building was rededicated on January 18, 1920, under the pastorate of Rev. Willis Ray Wilson. Only eight years later it became necessary to provide more class rooms for the Sunday school, and the basement was fully excavated under the auditorium, providing three more class rooms and additional space for the dining room.

In addition to the regular preaching services the church cherishes a well organized Men's

Club, a very active Woman's Society of Christian Service, the Wesleyan Fellowship group, the Methodist Youth Fellowship group, a growing Sunday school and social groups for various classes of the Sunday school.

The local church is proud to have had one member consecrated to the work of the Kingdom, Daisy (Mathis) Vaughn having spent seven years as a medical missionary in Nanchang, China. She died in 1917 while on furlough in the United States.

At the present time the church is in a building program with the objective of erecting and entering an entirely new sanctuary and religious education unit by the end of 1959. The site of the First Methodist was extended by the purchase of an additional lot and the new church is being erected around two sides of the old church.

## THE FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

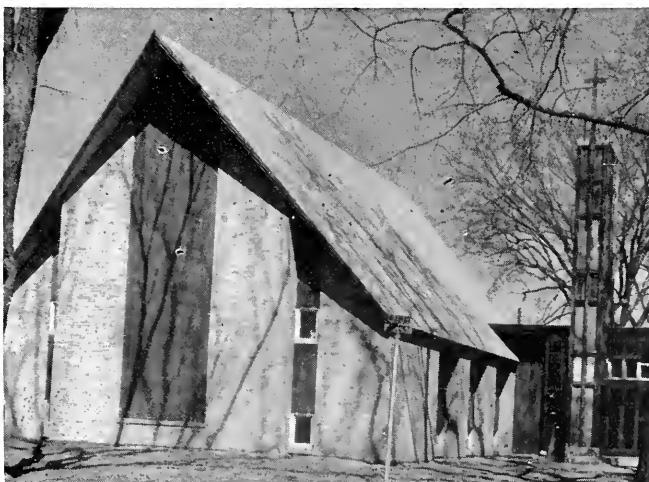
Soon after the Civil War, Swedish immigrants were arriving in larger numbers than ever to Prophetstown, Lyndon, Tampico and Fairfield townships. These God fearing people did not forget their childhood training in their native land. They were not only seeking earthly home, but were looking for a place to worship God and prepare for that eternal home. Since the largest settlement of Swedish people was in the Tampico vicinity, a church was built in Tampico in 1868 in partnership with the Baptists. The times of services were alternated.

The transportation from Prophetstown to Tampico was mainly by horse and lumber wagon or in

winter by bobsled as very few could afford buggies, surreys or cutters. The dirt roads were almost impassable in the spring of the year. Sometimes when the going was impossible, all occupants, except the driver had to get off and walk at the side of the road until the horses could get better footing.

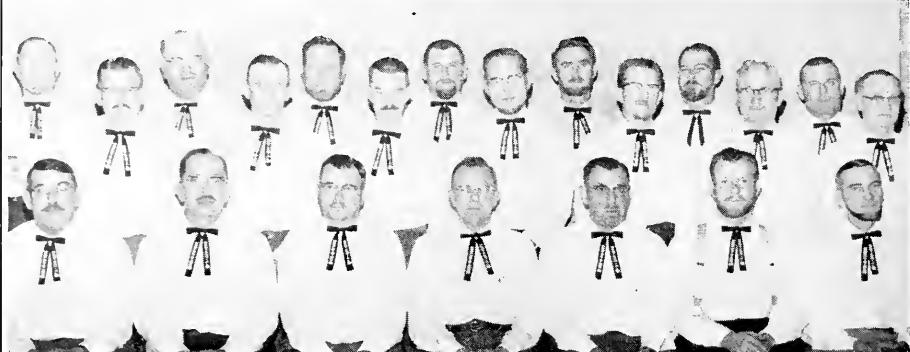
The section foreman on the railroad used a hand-car and took some people to Tampico to church. The men furnished the power by pumping the hand-car and the women rode behind on a flat car.

In 1874 the Swedes and Danes near New Bed-



# PROPHETSTOWN FIRE PROTECTION DIST.

ORGANIZED JULY 27, 1955



Bottom row—left to right: Charles Emery, Leslie Johnson, Vernon Dorothy, Eldon Blair, Kenneth Clark, Robert Siefken, George A. Perkins.

Second row: Dean Dorothy, Don Hill, Gerald Hansen, Clarence Bender, Ernest Buck, Fred Bier-

man, Edward Arians.

Top row: R. G. Rowland, Harold Plautz, Robert Hoogerwerf, Richard Farndale, Joe Reichard, Jr., Richard Dorothy, Emery Upton.



## OFFICERS

K. L. CLARK, Chief

C. E. BENDER

R. FARNDALE, Assistant Chief

J. REICHARD, JR., Secretary

## TRUSTEES

R. G. ROWLAND, Pres.

H. C. PLAUTZ, Sec.

F. H. BIERMAN, Treas.

ford in Fairfield Township organized and built a church which attracted the people south and southwest of Tampico, who formerly attended the Tampico church. By 1879 it became difficult to maintain a congregation in Tampico, so the Lutherans finally sold their interest in that church to the Baptists. For several months services were held in the homes at Prophetstown and Lyndon. On March 7, 1880, an organization meeting was held and there was a total of forty-one charter members listed.

The Constitution of the Augustana Synod was adopted and the church was named the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Prophetstown. On September 19, 1880, a special meeting was called and conducted by Rev. C. O. Granere to determine whether or not they should build a church. When put to vote, the motion carried and the contract was let for \$430.00 and the building was to be finished November 1, the same year.

In 1897 a Young People's Society was organized and is known at present as the Luther League.

The first resident pastor, Rev. J. E. Holtz, arrived from Madrid, Iowa, in 1899. He accepted a joint call from Prophetstown, Sterling and Morrison at a salary of \$300.00 from Prophetstown. As the congregation had already purchased a lot west of the church, the pastor started a subscription list in the spring of 1900 and succeeded in raising \$1,500 which paid for the parsonage.

A basement was dug under the north half of the church in 1912 and in 1914 the old board benches were replaced with pews.

The years from 1914 until 1920 were troublous because of the language question. The young people who had not learned the Swedish language were leaving the church. The Board of Adminis-

tration decided to have Swedish services in the morning and English services in the evening. The plan did not succeed because the pastor did not speak English fluently. The older people insisted on having Swedish services. Swedish services were entirely discontinued in 1930.

The name of the church was changed to The First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Prophetstown at the annual meeting on January 4, 1923.

On November 4, 1941, the congregation voted for the incorporation of the church. The question of starting a building fund was also discussed and the Board of Administration was authorized to purchase a suitable site.

As a means of starting the building fund, the "God's Acre" plan was adopted. That is a number of farmers set aside one acre of ground and agreed to give the produce or the value of the crop each year to the building fund. The plan was followed for a few years then dropped.

The corner lot on North Locust and West 3rd Streets was purchased in 1951. In August 1956 they began to dismantle the house on that lot. Shortly after the dismantling was completed, the building program got underway. Now they have a beautiful church in which to worship. The first service in the new church was on Easter, March 29, 1959, and the dedicatory services were held on April 12, 1959.

All women's organizations of the church have recently combined under the name of Augustana Lutheran Church Women.

The church has a membership slightly more than 200. Carl O. Swanson is the oldest living member.

## THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

A meeting was held at the home of Miss Frances Tuller on the evening of April 29, 1895, for the purpose of considering the organization of the Congregational Church. The First Congregational Church was organized on May 14, 1895.

A meeting was held in Memorial Hall on February 23, 1895, with the Rev. W. B. Ladd of the Congregational Church of Lyndon conducting the services. The service was most successful and the Rev. Ladd was invited to return to conduct other services which were held in Sholes Hall as more room was available there.

On May 24, 1895, the following members were elected to serve as the first officers of the church: Clerk, F. W. Sears; Treasurer, Miss Frances Tuller; Trustees, S. G. Baldwin, Mary K. Hadaway and E. R. Conner.

A building committee consisting of S. G. Baldwin, J. J. Green, H. C. Hull, Mary K. Hadaway and Anne Southard was appointed.

Delegates to the Rock River Association were elected on September 21, 1895, and the Rev. Ladd was requested to present the newly organized church for admission.

The formal dedication of the new church building was held on November 17, 1895. The Reverend W. B. Ladd was called to serve as the first pastor.

The building committee made its financial statement and report saying that the ground was broken for the First Congregational Church of Prophetstown May 16, 1895, on the corner lot 102x75 feet of the Seacritt property. The entire cost of the

**COLLINSON BROTHERS**

**SAND & GRAVEL**

Prophetstown, Illinois

**WALNUT GROVE PRODUCT CO.**

Manufacturer of

**4 x 4 FEEDS**

Research is the Extra Ingredient in Every Bag.

**JOHN GENTZ**

PROPHETSTOWN REPRESENTATIVE

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**PROPHETSTOWN**

ON ITS 100th BIRTHDAY

**GARDNER FUNERAL SERVICE**

**DEAN GARDNER**

Furniture

Ambulance Service



building was \$3,778.15 but after collections of the day only a debt of \$847.24 remained to be paid.

The manse was dedicated on September 24, 1899. During the year 1902 a barn was erected on the manse lot. Miss Zella Baird's residence was devised to the church for a manse in 1947. During 1902 a plan for an addition to the church building was recommended by the board of trustees and accepted by the church. In 1906 while evangelistic services were being conducted by Billy Sunday, 140 new members were received into the church. With this increase in membership the church felt the need to enlarge its building and plans were again suggested. An architect was consulted by the building committee to draw plans for the addition which was to include new class rooms, a church parlor, a dining room, gymnasium and kitchen. The addition was dedicated on April 13, 1913. The entire cost of the improvement amounted to \$8,000.00

Five years later on April 15, 1918, the church building was destroyed by fire. The church was then the center for the Red Cross activities and was housing supplies for the local chapter. While the church was being rebuilt, services were held in the Dudley Auditorium.

The present church building was dedicated in June, 1919. The cost of the new building was approximately \$40,000. Through an endowment fund created by various bequests of property and money through the years it was possible to purchase the Battensby property adjoining the church.

The church has a membership of 319. Mrs. Elizabeth Ballard is the oldest living member.

Serving as valuable adjuncts to the church are the Sunday School, the Woman's Fellowship, the Men's Club, the Martha Class, the Golden Guild, and the Pilgrim Youth Fellowship.

## ST. CATHERINE PARISH

While the present parish boundaries were established in the memory of living people, the history of the parish goes back to the very foundation of our country. The first flag of a civilized people to wave over the prairies of Illinois was the flag of France. The French explorers went up and down the Wisconsin, the Illinois, the Rock, and the Mississippi rivers, trading with the Indians, preaching Christianity to them and establishing trading posts.

The European wars between France and England spread to America. England won America at the battle of Quebec in 1759 and Illinois passed from France to England by the Treaty of Paris in 1763. Illinois was under the actual rule of England from 1763 until the conquest of George Rogers Clark in 1778. As long as Illinois was a possession of France, the language, customs and institutions

were French and the priests who labored in these missions were French. When Illinois passed from France to England in 1763, these French missionaries departed.

Any Catholics in Illinois were under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Quebec until the year 1874, when a decree from Rome established the newly-federated United States as a separate ecclesiastical division and the Very Reverend John Carroll was appointed Perfect Apostolic. In the year 1810 the church in Illinois came under the direction of the new Bishop of Bardstown, Kentucky, and in 1827 the Bishop of St. Louis became the spiritual head of the area. In 1843 a diocese was established in Chicago that included the northern part of the State of Illinois. So the area around Prophetstown was always under the guidance of the church officially, there were few priests who were free to come into the district since new settlements were



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springing up and the demand for these spiritual Fathers was very great.

Studying the records of the lives of the earliest priests we are truly amazed. Their way was laid through miles of solitude and across prairies scorched by a blazing sun or locked in the iron grasp of winter's desolation. Because of the liturgy of the church, it was not enough that the man who was a priest come to the settlers, but he must have with him all the sacred utensils for offering the sacrifice of the Mass. It was necessary that he bring with him the altar stone, the chalice (which being of precious metal was the object for theives) the vestments and the linens. The strict laws of the church regarding the wine to be used and the unleavened bread makes us realize how difficult it was for the priest to travel so equipped over the floods of rivers and over the trackless prairies. Then, too, there were language difficulties with the various emigrants from all parts of Europe. It is said that the early church spread the doctrine of Christ over the military roads of the Roman legions and a parallel is true in the history of the church in Illinois for it was not until the coming of the railroads do we find the settlements having anything like regular religious services.

The parish in Prophetstown was part of the Catholic Church in Tampico. When the John Murphy family moved to Prophetstown in 1875, they attended Mass in Tampico whenever they could. Mr. Murphy would rent or borrow (the records are not clear) a hand-car from the railroad and pump his way to church. The early records say that he took a "group of people along with his wife". Maybe hand-cars were bigger in those days. At any rate the group would leave on Saturday night and remain with friends in Tampico, assist at Mass in the morning and return on Sunday afternoon. Apparently such zeal must have impressed the priest in Tampico, because later on we read that Mass was offered in the Murphy home on the first Sunday of each month. We are sorry to relate that the pastor arrived by conventional railway coach.

Mass was offered in the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Leahy after the Murphy family moved from town to a farm. In 1916 the parish really began and there was regular attendance from Tampico.

The present church was built during the time that Reverend Theodore McCormick served here. With the establishment of the parish as an independent spiritual family, a resident pastor was sent by Bishop Muldoon.

## THE ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH



The Advent Christian people of Prophetstown were members of the Advent Christian Church at Mineral for many years. Due to the distance of twenty-five miles, they found it difficult to take a full part in the church program. Some were convinced that a church should be started in Prophetstown. Others were not so sure, but were willing to lend their support.

After talking it over with Rev. William S. Bowden, their pastor in Mineral, Rev. Howard Nason of Lancaster, Ohio, was contacted to hold an evangelistic campaign in Prophetstown. A large tent



Mrs. Emily Adolf

# **Congratulations To Our Prophetstown CENTENNIAL**

The Prophetstown Centennial should be one of the greatest boosts for our wonderful community . . if we all do our part. As a representative of the Daily Gazette, I am concerned with seeing that Prophetstown interests are well served, both in news coverage and, also to serve the business houses who want their messages to reach BEYOND the local area . . throughout the entire county and adjacent counties.

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was secured and a two weeks campaign was held in June, 1948.

As a result of this campaign a church was organized and Rev. Howard Nason became the first pastor in September, 1948.

The present structure and the adjoining six room parsonage were built by the members of the church.

In addition to the Sunday School there is a King's Jewels organization, a Loyal Workers and the Woman's Home and Foreign Mission Society.

## LEON METHODIST CHURCH



Leon Church history dates back more than 80 years ago. A petition was circulated among the residents of Foytown and Bluff grade schools that this community be called Leon. The name was suggested by Mrs. Orson Richards, an aunt of the late Otis Richards and the late Mrs. Frank Howland, from a village in New York state where Mrs. Richards had lived as a girl. The petition was sent to the government and the name was accepted. Since then our community has been called Leon or Leon Corners.

In 1880, a Mr. S. L. Ackley, who lived on the Clark Lane farm, gave a piece of land adjoining the cemetery, suggesting that cemetery lots be sold and with the money received a small church be built where all could worship. A building 24'x40' was built and people came from near and far for worship, fun and entertainment as the church was nondenominational. It was known to all as the "Meeting House."

The late Mrs. Frank Howland relates of the first service she attended. It was a New Year's Watch Party in 1890. Later, ministers came from different churches and towns to preach and hold revival meetings. By this time, the community was being settled by many more people from the Eastern states and it was felt that a resident pastor was needed. Mr. Fred Graham, a student pastor,

came as our first regular minister and was here for 3 years. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Howland were the first couple married in the Leon Chuch and were married by Rev. Graham.

In 1898 plans were made to build a new and larger church. From a clipping from a Proprietorship paper of that year came this notice—"The Methodist Church society of Leon will erect a new church on a lot donated by Mr. George Reese, near where the present building stands. The cost of the new building will be \$1500. Mr. Shaw and Mr. Sequine, who have just completed the new Leon School, will have the contract. Calvin Ott will do the mason work and the lumber will come from the J. E. Frary Lumber Co."

The Epworth League members started the building fund by having a basket supper and earned \$30.

The work on the church was done all through the cold winter, stoves being set up as soon as the building was started. On February 5, 1899, with the temperature registering 20 degrees below zero, the building was dedicated. The church was filled to capacity and before the morning service was over the remaining debt had been pledged.

The women's organization of the church at this time was the W.C.T.U. but changed their name to the "Ladies' Aid Society", hoping to give more support to the church. Through the years, in order to meet church expenses, these ladies have baked hundreds of cakes, hundreds of pies, scores of chicken-pie dinners have been served and countless number of ice cream socials have been held.

In 1904, the parsonage was built to house the minister and his family.

There have been many outstanding services. One was the 40th anniversary in 1939 when Rev. Graham, our first minister, was here. Another memorable event was in 1940 when the church was completely redecorated. Another homecoming event was the rededicating of our church as "Leon, the church by the side of the Road." The late Dr. John Holland of W.L.S. was the speaker.

In 1958, construction was started on a new addition to the church. Consecration day for this new addition was on April 26, 1958 with the present pastor, Rev. Henry Holverson in charge.

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Prophetstown, Ill.

# Our Schools Also Progress

Wherever a few families settled in the early days, a schoolroom was usually set up in a room of one of the cabins.

The "Spelling Bee" was one of the favorite activities for both parents and scholars. Many evenings were spent in such contests, usually with patrons trying their luck against the scholars of the school.

The singing school was a "Homespun Institution" and was very popular during the years from 1835 to the early 1900's. The singing master traveled throughout an area conducting singing lessons. Children and adults alike looked forward to his visits.

Patterns blend and years flow, and the cross currents are many but the undercurrent is strong that channels the stream of man along the way it must follow to achieve the aspired, "Light" of success through knowledge.

The first school of instruction in this township as well as in Whiteside County, was held in Asa Crook's home in the fall of 1835. It was taught by Miss Lovica Hamilton of nearby Lyndon. She was the first teacher in Whiteside County.

Lovica Hamilton was born in Northhampton, Mass., in 1818. She came to Illinois with her parents

in 1835. They settled in Lyndon township after making the 1000 mile trip from New York by teams and wagons in thirty days.

Miss Hamilton must be recognized as a pioneer educator in the county. It was because of the efforts of individuals like Lovica Hamilton and her contemporaries, humble though their beginnings were, that education in Whiteside County dates almost from the arrival of the first white settler.

The first public school in the township was a log structure built by William Hill in 1836 on Washington Street Road near his home. Since Wash-



We're all in our places . . ."



Aerial View of the High School

# First Congregational Church

1895

1959

*Nelson C. Chasteen, B.A. B.D., Minister*

*E. A. Bowers, B.A. M.A., Chairman of Board of Trustees*



**FAITH**—“We believe in God the Father, Infinite in wisdom, goodness and love; and in Jesus Christ, His Son, our Lord and Savior, who for us and our salvation lived and died and rose again and liveth evermore; and in the Holy Spirit, who taketh of the things of Christ and revealeth them to us, renewing, comforting, and inspiring the souls of men. We are united in striving to know the will of God as taught us in the Holy Scriptures, and in our purpose to walk in the ways of the Lord made known or to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church of Christ to proclaim the gospel to all mankind, exalting the worship of the one true God, and laboring for the progress of knowledge, the promotion of justice, the reign of peace, and the realization of human brotherhood. Depending, as did our fathers upon the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us into truth, we work and pray for the transformation of the world into the kingdom of God; and we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness and the life everlasting.

**PRINCIPLES**—We believe in a free Kingdom of God under the sole authority and leadership of the Spirit of Christ, insuring freedom of the individual soul, liberty of conscience, the independence of the local church and the free fellowship of the churches.

**IDEALS**—Democratic life and organization, simplicity and vitality of faith, intellectual freedom, educational efficiency, evangelistic purpose, missionary zeal, social passion, unsectarian fellowship, unselfish devotion to the extension of the Kingdom.

**PRACTICE**—Congregational Churches emphasize beliefs in which all evangelical Christians agree, exalt nothing trivial or sectarian, repudiate dogmatism and all legislative control, ecclesiastical or civic, of the spiritual life, and seek union of all churches, on the basis of mutual freedom and fellowship. Our rule of action is “In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity.”



New Prophetstown Elementary School, Erected in 1951

ton Street Road was an area settled first, there was a great need for a school. The log school was replaced in 1840 at its original location in the township.

The present Benton Street school, located on Benton Street, is the only remaining one-room school in the township. It includes somewhat the same territory as did that first log school. Since those early days, school districts have been established. Long before schools bore names, they were identified with numerals.

The first frame school building in the village of Prophetstown was completed in 1841 and was located on the river bank on Ferry Street.

A brick building was built on West 2nd Street in the early 1850's near the present Mollie Perrin and Harry Hammond residences. It was built for the benefit of elementary children who wished to further their education. In fun this school was referred to as the "College".

An octagon-shaped school building was finished in 1860. It was located on the hill near the site of the city water tower. It was taught and financed by Mark Averill, a Quaker, and was called the Averill school or academy.

A new two story, four room, brick school was built on the location of the present elementary school in 1881. Eleven grades were taught. The ninth, tenth and eleventh grades were in the fourth room or high school. An addition of two rooms was built in 1891 and one more grade was added to the high school.

Two more rooms were built on the west side in 1908. At that time both outdoor toilets were removed and new ones were installed in the basement of the original building.

The board of education decided to present a bond issue to be voted on by the citizens, for the building of a new high school. It was passed and the school was ready for use in the fall of 1928.

Both the grade and high school were in the

same district, known as District Number 75. The high school became Prophetstown Community High School including a part of Henry county and parts of Tampico, Hume and Portland Townships, the assessed valuation being two million dollars.

Since District Number 75 still owned the high school, the latter was rented from the former for three years for the sum of \$3,500 per year. When the new elementary school was to be built, the high school was sold to District Number 308 (the Community High School) for \$60,000.

A large addition to the high school was finished in 1958. The present staff includes the principal, a secretary, thirteen teachers, two custodians, two cooks, and two bus drivers. The enrollment is now about one hundred ninety.

The old elementary school was condemned in 1933, but, that being a time of great financial depression, nothing could be done about it.

However, the present elementary school was erected in 1951. Then in 1955 five more classrooms were added to the west end. On April 11, 1959, the citizens passed a \$60,000 bond issue to enlarge it again by adding three rooms to the east end.

The present elementary school staff includes the principal, sixteen teachers, a secretary, two custodians, two cooks and a bus driver. The present enrollment is about three hundred fifty-five.

Within the last five and one-half years three new consolidated schools have been built in the vicinity of Prophetstown.

The Centerville Consolidated school, District Number 77, in Leon Community was completed and ready for use in February of 1954. Three teachers are employed there.

Portland Consolidated School, District Number 146, in Portland township was opened for classes in September, 1954. It also employs three teachers.

Crestview Consolidated School, District 148, is in Hume township on Route 172. It was completed in 1958 with a teaching staff of two.

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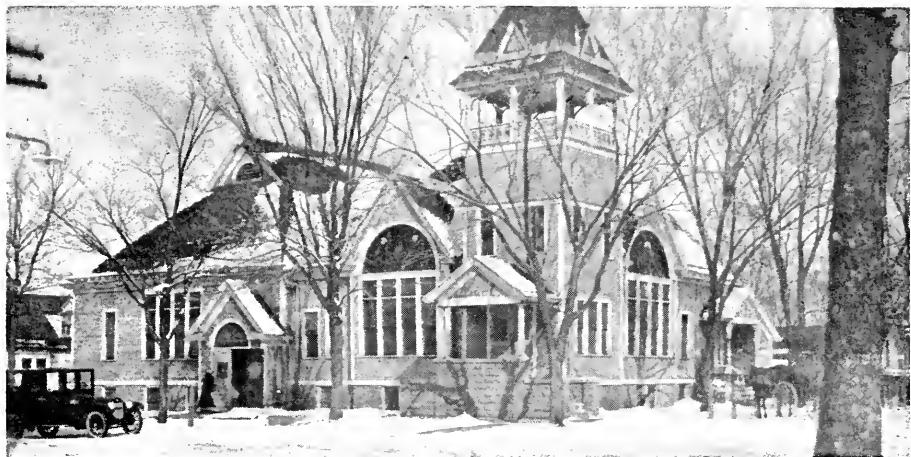
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Congregational Church Choir



Centerville School, District Number 77



First Methodist Church in Prophetstown



First High School Graduating Class 1886  
Front Row l to r Allen Greene, John Q. Paddock, Charles W. Fenn.

Back Row Mary Barnes, Allie McNamara, Maggie Sanderson, Annie Cleveland.

Prin. William J. Johnson



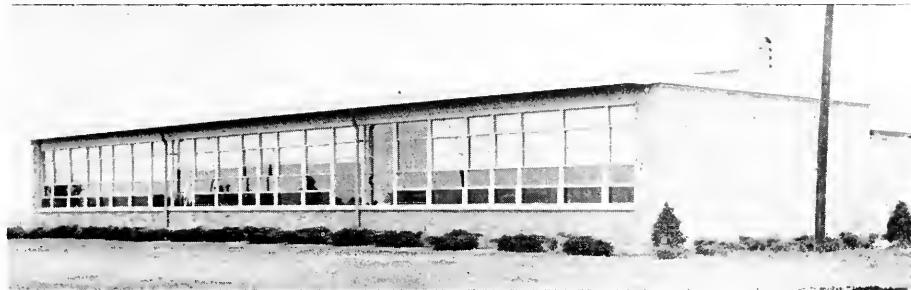
This brick house on West 3rd Street is one of the oldest remaining buildings in Prophetstown. It is considered to be at least one hundred nine years old. It was built by A. J. Warner and is now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Lindsay.



The old Grade School Building



Benton Street School, District 76

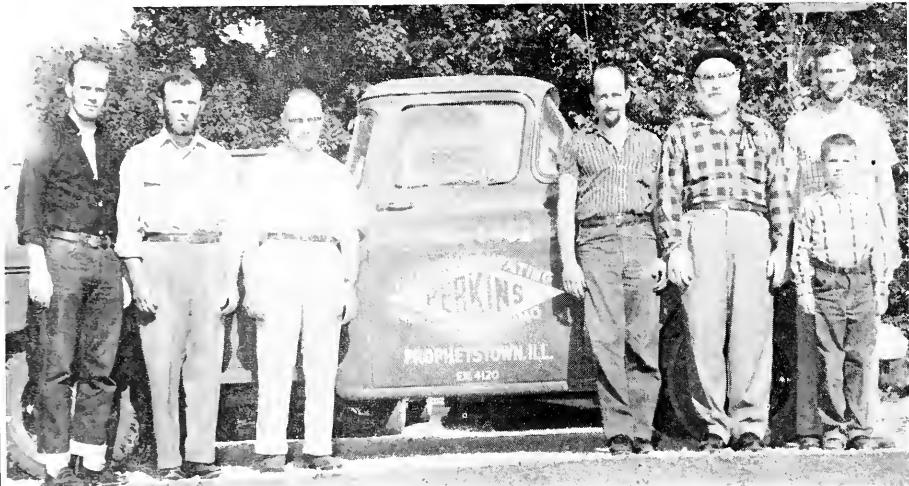


Portland Consolidated School, District 146



Crest View School, District 148

Congratulations to Prophetstown



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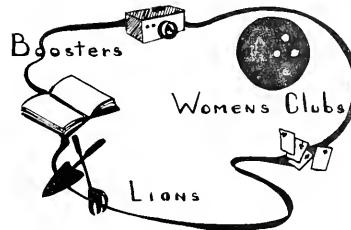
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# Organizations Build Thriving Community

We sketch now some of the patriotic, fraternal and charitable organizations of Prophetstown. To build a city only wood and stone is needed. Much more is required to build a community. The unselfish work of these groups has enriched the view for all of us.



## The Prophetstown Woman's Club

Prophetstown women through their organizations play an important part in the social and civic life of the community. Their aim is to promote educational, social and patriotic influence for the welfare of all people. The study of fine arts, including music and painting, has a place on the program.

The Woman's Club is an outgrowth of a domestic science club, which later became known as the Thursday Club. The original club was organized by the late Mrs. G. G. Thompson, assisted by the wife of Senator Dunlap, at a meeting held in the GAR hall in 1906.

On February 12, 1910, the name was changed to the Thursday Club. Its first civic work was the improvement of Riverside Cemetery. For this the club borrowed money to defray expenses. Weeds were mowed, gravestones straightened, gravel drives put in, and finally a curbing was placed on the outside of the grounds.

The club next turned its attention to improving the park and riverfront. Weeds were cleared and grass mowed as far as Coon Creek. The band stand was painted. Tables, benches and a range were purchased for use in the park. The money for this project was raised by popular subscription.

The club members signed a petition asking the railroad to place a bell at the crossing. This request was granted. Playground equipment was needed at the school. Basketball equipment, teeter boards, and slides were purchased. Five "Go Slow" signs were placed at different streets in the vicinity of the school.

On April 16, 1914, the club joined the district federation and two years later joined the state federation. On March 29, 1917, the name was changed to the Woman's Club of Prophetstown. The club

motto is "We do things—work, not words, counts." During the World War, meetings were suspended and members spent much of their time doing Red Cross work, aiding in the sale of Christmas seals, Near East relief, and Salvation Army work.

The club has given assistance to various charitable organizations including child welfare work, Bethlehem's Day Nursery in Chicago, besides giving liberally to the needy in its own community. It has given valuable support to institutions for wounded soldiers. It has helped maintain the Park Ridge home for girls and has sent money and clothing to the Woman's Shelter. In April, 1929, the club assisted the city in the purchase of a new fire hose, contributing \$160.

In September, 1929, the club moved from the club room in the city hall, where it had met for years, to the Adams Memorial Library. The first meeting there was held September 12 and it continues to have meetings there. The Americana was purchased and presented to the library as a contribution from the club. The club's next big project was the landscaping and beautifying the Highway Triangle Park. With the co-operation of the city, state and public spirited citizens, a spot was developed that attracts the eye of everyone entering the city.

The Prophetstown Woman's Club celebrated its 30th anniversary on Thursday, October 1, 1936, with an appropriate program, tea at the club rooms and a memorial service for departed members.

The Garden Club is part of the Woman's Club organization and the meetings are held in the homes of the members. They are planning the permanent flower baskets to be placed on the new street light poles, as soon as possible, and hope to have this project completed in time for the centennial this summer.

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## **Order of the Eastern Star**

In the year 1870 several members of the Masonic Lodge and their wives decided that they would like to have an Order of the Eastern Star Chapter in Prophetstown. On August 25th of that year the chapter was instituted as Minerva Chapter No. 23, and granted a charter with the following serving as the first officers: Sarah Sears, Worthy Matron, W. R. Kent, Worthy Patron, Maria Monroe, Associate Matron, J. C. Paddock, Secretary, Minerva McKenzie, Treasurer, Jennie Brigham, Conductress, Gertrude Cleaveland, Associate Conductress, M. E. Paddock, Secretary, Minerva Paddock, Warden and W. E. Brigham, Warden.

The first meeting was held September 17, 1870, in the old Masonic Hall on Third Street. This building is still standing. It is owned by Mrs. Gus Hawkinson and used as a residence.

In the year of 1874 some of the members of Minerva Chapter assisted in instituting a Grand Chapter in Illinois.

At the meeting of the Grand Chapter in 1877, the chapters of the state of Illinois were renumbered as several of the first chapters had surrendered their charters and some were combined so that Mineva Chapter was renumbered No. 6.

At the meeting on February 14, 1880, the Worthy Grand Patron was present and announced that the people of Erie were desirous of instituting a chapter and wished a recommendation from Minerva Chapter. This request was granted and several members went to Erie a few days later and Evangeline Chapter was instituted.

The Chapter had a picnic in observance of its twenty-fifth anniversary on August 26, 1895, at the home of Sister Minerva and Brother Crosby McKenzie. The chapter was named in honor of Sister Minerva McKenzie.

At the meeting of June 13, 1896, a communication was read inviting the officers to be present at the Institution of Sterling Chapter. On August 8, 1896, it was decided to go to Fulton to institute Meriton Chapter and on November 17, 1896, it helped Rock River Chapter of Lyndon to organize.

In 1920 it celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary with a picnic in Riverside Park at which time four of the charter members were present.

In the spring of 1920 the chapter moved to the new Masonic Temple on Washington Street where the meetings are still held.

In 1945 the seventy-fifth anniversary was celebrated by having a banquet at the Methodist Church preceding the meeting. The Worthy Grand Matron, Worthy Grand Patron, other Grand Officers and distinguished guests were present, as well as

fifteen Past Matrons and four Past Patrons of Minerva Chapter.

In 1958 Rock River Chapter of Lyndon gave up their charter and twenty-seven of the members affiliated with Minerva Chapter.

At the present time Minerva Chapter has two-hundred twenty-five members. Special mention is due the members who have belonged for over fifty years. They are Lucetta Swederus and Guy Cleaveland having joined in 1896, Blanche McGrady in 1898, Rhonda M. Hotchkiss in 1900, and Kathryn Hudson in 1905.

## **Prophetstown Women's Relief Corps**

Women's Relief Corps, an auxiliary of the GAR was named after John A. Parrott, a Prophetstown soldier who was killed in the Battle of Resecka in Georgia May 16, 1864. Prior to the war Mr. Parrott was a local building contractor. He enlisted in the Illinois Regiment No. 34 and received his training at Camp Butler in Springfield. He helped recruit men for voluntary enlistment for Prophetstown Company B. Lt. Parrott was promoted to the rank of Captain after being wounded in the Battle of Shiloh. After his death David Cleaveland, another Prophetstown man was promoted to fill the captaincy. The Prophetstown corps was organized and received its charter in 1883. There were thirty-eight charter members.

For the first thirteen years the meetings were held in the Odd Fellows Hall. In 1895 plans were made and a GAR Hall was built. On April 29, 1896, John A. Parrott Post and Woman's Relief Corps Memorial Association were incorporated so that they could take possession of Memorial Hall and own the building and real estate. The deed was executed June 30, 1896. On June 14, 1897, a lot was purchased from the Prophetstown Cemetery Association and a monument in honor of the unknown soldiers was erected.

The Women's Relief Corps met twice a month for the purpose of transacting business. They supported all patriotic and philanthropic projects in the community and helped in the commemoration of Memorial Day.

Due to a dwindling membership and other unforeseen circumstances causing increasing hardship of upkeep, an agreement was made with American Legion Post No. 522. The post was to maintain the building and the WRC and Sons of Veterans were to have use of the building as a meeting place as long as needed. This agreement took place March 8, 1952.

On January 2, 1957, it was voted to dissolve the corporation of John A. Parrott Post and Woman's Relief Corps No. 97. At the present time there are thirty-three members.

## Some Prophetstown Firsts

FIRST SETTLERS: the Winnebagos Indians - their village was burned in 1832 by our militia headed by Abraham Lincoln.

FIRST WHITE SETTLERS: the Asa Crook family - arrived June 4, 1834.

FIRST SCHOOL & FIRST CHURCH SERVICES (1835) & FIRST POSTOFFICE (1836) all conducted in the Asa Crook home.

FIRST ELECTION in August, 1835 (town platted in 1838 & incorporated in 1859) Prophetstown was named for the great prophet and soothsayer, Wa-bo-Kies-Shiek, Chief of the Winnebagoes who counseled Blackhawk not to attack the white man.



FIRST FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION: started in 1858.

FIRST HOTEL: the Rock River House in 1841.

FIRST BRICK BUILDING: erected in 1854.

FIRST CHURCH: erected in 1864.

FIRST RAILROAD: the C B & Q constructed in 1871.

FIRST NEWSPAPER: the Prophetstown Spike in 1871.

FIRST BANK: organized in 1872.

FIRST WATERWORKS: 1904.

FIRST TELEPHONE: Chartered in 1904.

FIRST ELECTRIC POWER: 1896, Wm. McNeil. Sold to Roy Olmstead & Chas Lancaster in 1900.



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## The Prophetstown Lions Club

The Prophetstown Lions Club is a men's civic service organization of recent origin. It was chartered on December 11, 1947, at the Prophetstown High School. It was co-sponsored by the Sterling and Morrison Lions Clubs.

At the time of the charter there were fifty-six members who met, ate, and worked together to establish the club on a firm foundation. This organization's continual growth through enterprising accomplishments, is in evidence today.

It has raised money to help the city development, as well as to help many deserving individuals in times of emergency.

Some of the noteworthy donations to other community organizations and individuals are as follows: in 1959, a sum of \$956.06 to the Community Fire Department to help purchase a radio system in its fire trucks; a fourteen foot rescue boat and trailer to the Fire Department in 1958; the Blood Donors List which was started and maintained since April 13, 1948, for the use of the local medical doctors; a donation of \$304.45 to the Band Parents Association to be used in the purchase of band uniforms; glasses for the needy; in 1955, for the benefit of about 800 children; a Lion and Tiger Show in the grade school gymnasium; in 1956 a "seeing eye dog" to a blind couple who lived in our town at that time; Christmas baskets to shut-ins; to scouting groups; to the city rest room fund and many more, too numerous to mention.

The formal opening of the present club rooms was held in February, 1951. There have been regular weekly, Tuesday noon dinner meetings since that time.

The Lions Club was one of the co-operating organizations to encourage "Dollar Days", as far back as 1948. At various times the club has promoted city-wide clean-up programs. For many years it has had a food concession on Kids' Day". During 1955-1956 the Lions sponsored the State Softball Tournament at the local ball diamond.

On March 5, 1957, our present state representative, Hon. George Brydia and Mrs. Brydia were the donors of a two-story business house at 314 Washington Street to the Lions Club. A bronze plaque is attached to this building in memorium of their most generous gift.

The Prophetstown Lions were co-sponsors with the Sterling Club in 1958 in establishing a new Lions Club in Tampico, which is an active, growing organization.

## Country Club

On one of the first days of June, 1910, the patrons and neighbors of the Centerville School, mostly women, gathered with the children for the closing day exercises. Many of these women were not well acquainted as there was nothing to call them together except, occasionally, something at the school house. After the exercises, a suggestion was made that a club would be a splended thing for the neighborhood. The suggestion met with hearty approval.

A group of women met on June 10, 1910. Fourteen women joined the club. They drew up their constitution and by-laws. Mrs. George Yager was the first president; Mrs. William Clark, vice-president; Mrs. Robert Pritchard, secretary, and Mrs. William Pritchard, treasurer.

The members voted to call the organization "The Country Club". The membership at present is fourteen. Mrs. George Yager is the only remaining charter member.

At first the members seemed more interested in domestic science and current events. Back as far as 1913 the members of this small club were packing boxes for the Mt. Carmel Orphanage near Morrison. During the World War in 1918 the members sewed on Red Cross work.

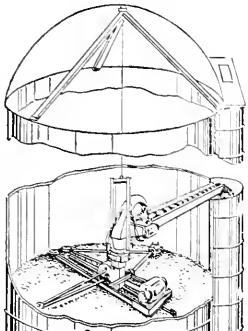
On December 9, 1920, Mrs. S. B. Bayles was elected as the club's first delegate to meet with the Prophetstown Rest Room committee. The club has continuously helped towards the maintenance of the rest room.

The club women have always assisted and helped with many worthy causes. The motto is: "If you want a good neighbor, be one". The colors are orchid and green and the flower is the sweet-pea.

The Country Club federated with the county, district and state federation of women's clubs in 1935. In 1940 they voted to withdraw from the federation.

The Country Club was the first club of rural women in Prophetstown Township and is the oldest club around, still functioning under the original name. Members meet once a month in the homes of members for a social time, and also contribute to the Rest Room Fund and other worthy causes such as the cancer and polio drives.

The 25th anniversary was celebrated in June, 1935, at the home of Mrs. George Yager where the first meeting was held. Many former members attended.



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PROPHETSTOWN

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PROPHETSTOWN

## The Masons

The history of Masonry in our community has paralleled the entire history of Prophetstown since Prophetstown Lodge No. 293 A. F. & A. M. was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Illinois on October 5, 1859. Charter members were William T. Minchen, Andrew I. Grover, Simeon Fuller, William Pratt, David H. Nichols, William A. Spencer, Franklin Hadaway, James C. Monroe and H. A. Parkhurst. William T. Minchen was the first Worshipful Master.

After the lodge was organized, it held its meetings, for several years, in a building on the site of the GAR building now occupied by the American Legion and Sons of Veterans. In 1868, it was decided to build a Masonic Temple and on September 11 of that year a contract for its erection was authorized. On December 10, 1868, the building was formally dedicated. The building still stands on the southside of East Second Street just east of H & L Produce Company. As the fraternity grew, so did the need for better and larger housing. On May 6, 1919, a decision was made to build a new temple and a joint committee of members of Prophetstown Lodge No. 293 AF & AM and Prophetstown Chapter No. 174 RAM was authorized to contract for and erect the building.

The building was completed and dedicated on April 29, 1920. This is the temple presently used by the lodge.

While many members have been Masons for twenty, thirty and forty years, we are honored to have and give recognition to these men who have been members of the fraternity for 50 years or longer: Mark A. Stowell, Guy Cleveland, Chas. Cleveland and Harvey Hull.

Prophetstown Lodge No. 293 A. F. & A. M. is pleased to have played a part in the community life of Prophetstown during the past 100 years. We look to the future with hope and trust for a peaceful world and a continuative period of growth and prosperity for all.

So mote it be.

## Royal Neighbors of America

Prophetstown Camp No. 516, Royal Neighbors of America received its charter on February 24, 1897, with twenty charter members.

The camp's first meeting place was in the hall on Washington Street, in the building now owned by the Public Service Company. In 1933, after several moves, it convened in the Lion's Club Room in the city hall, where it continues to have its meetings.

Business meetings are held the second Monday evening of the month. A social meeting is held each month in homes of the members.

The membership of the Prophetstown camp has grown from twenty members to sixty-two beneficial members, twenty-seven social members and seventeen juvenile members. At this time the insurance in force amounts to \$83,570.

Since 1951 they have conducted a refreshment stand on Kid's Day to raise money, this being the only money making project of the year. On Memorial Day a marker is placed on the graves of all deceased members.

Royal Neighbors of America is a secret fraternal organization having its headquarters in Rock Island, Illinois. It sells life insurance to people who have been recommended by a member of the camp. Women who do not desire to have insurance may join as a social member.

## The Jolly Neighbors

A group of women attending a "last day of school" picnic in the Prairieview District decided to organize a club. An organization meeting was held on May 20, 1917. Eight women were present at this meeting and the following were elected to serve as officers: Mrs. Harry Lawrence, president, Mrs. H. B. Lyon, vice-president, and Mrs. Arthur Glass, secretary and treasurer.

The name of the club is "The Jolly Neighbors" and the motto is "If you want a friend, be one". The colors are blue and gold and the flower is the violet. At one time there were fifty members. In 1918 the club organized as a domestic science club and adopted a constitution and by-laws. Programs of food demonstrations, lessons in cooking and health were given at each meeting. The club also served dinners, sale lunches, pieced quilts, tied comforters, sewed carpet rags and held home made ice cream socials. The fourth of July was always celebrated with a big family picnic in Cabots Grove.

In 1919 this, with other clubs, was instrumental in establishing the Ladies Rest Room for our town. It has continued to support the Rest Room fund through the years.

In 1920 the club joined the District Federation of Women's Clubs. In 1927 it joined the state federation but when the group became too small to support both the federation projects and those of the community it withdrew from the federation.

In 1957 the club celebrated its fortieth anniversary with nineteen past members among those present. Mrs. H. B. Lyon has had a continuing membership in the club.

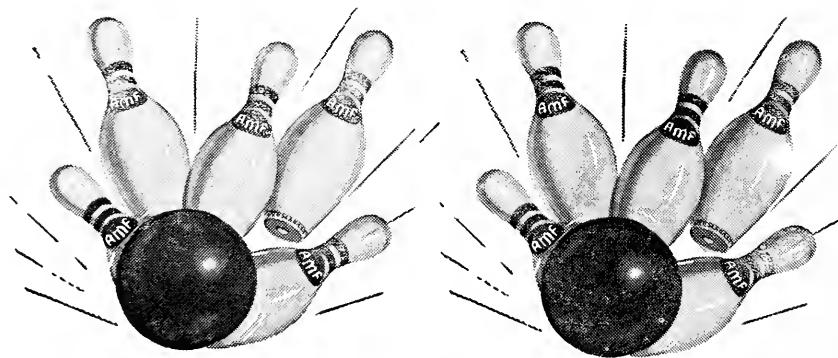


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## The WaTaN Ye Club

The word "Wa Tan Ye" is of Indian origin and signifies "Foremost". The club motto is "Service Foremost". The colors of this association and of the chartered clubs are red, black and yellow, chosen because they dominate the color of Indian art. Red is warmth, love and courage; yellow is the Indian spiritual color; black is the essence of all colors or all that is best in the human relationships. The club flower is the daisy. It signifies one having high and admirable characteristics. It recalls the broad fields over which the Indians roamed in yesterday.

Wa Tan Ye is a service organization composed of business and professional women of the community. Two members from each business or profession are admitted. The Prophetstown Club was organized by the Morrison Club in 1956, and a charter was granted on April 28, 1956, when a banquet and meeting was held at the Prophetstown Grade School gymnasium. The twenty-one members were initiated by the Morrison Club and the first club officers were installed as follows: Marilyn Siefken, president; Arlene DeWeerd, vice-president; Marie Rodee, secretary; Marilyn Lapham, treasurer, and Edna Johnson, parliamentarian.

The club meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at the Coffee Shop with a 6:30 dinner preceding the business meeting. In the summer months picnics have been held in the Prophetstown park. The Christmas meetings have been parties in the homes of members. The organization assists in all civic projects, such as, serving as matrons at the various service stations on "Kid's Day", assists in various ways when the Bloodmobile is in Prophetstown, sponsors a Girl Scout troop, donates to all worthy causes, furnished graduation clothes for a deserving boy, and at Christmas time remembers shut-ins and needy families.

The Prophetstown Wa Tan Ye Club has a membership of twenty members at this time.

## The American Legion Auxiliary

The American Legion Auxiliary of Prophetstown Post No. 522 held its organization meeting on April 19, 1922. The temporary charter was applied for in May, 1922, with nineteen members.

Thirty-two members were gained during the first sixty days. Application for a permanent charter was received December 1, 1922. During the first four months meetings were held only upon the call of the acting president. Permanent officers were elected in September as follows: Phyllis Thede, president, Leona Sommers, secretary, Cora Glass, treasurer, Florence Mosher, historian, Della Thompson, hospital chairman, and Bessie Burdsall, chaplain. There were sixty-five charter members.

The American Legion Auxiliary entertained a tea April 23, 1957, in the Legion Hall honoring the charter members of the unit. A memorial was conducted for all deceased members.

The Auxiliary donates money to the Department Child Welfare program and sponsors a cottage at Illinois Soldiers & Sailors Home at Normal. It donates to the Salvation Army, Crusade for Freedom, TB Sales, Heart Fund, March of Dimes, Cancer, Red Cross and Illinois Society of Mental Health. Members work at the Morrisan Hospital. The organization sends a girl to Girl's State at Jacksonville each year. A \$200 nurse's scholarship has been granted to a local veteran's daughter.

The four Gold Star Mothers are Mrs. Josie Ackeberg, Mrs. Mildred Tyler, Mrs. Myrtle Sawyer and Mrs. Louis Hannabarger.

In 1922 the quota for poppies was 500. Last year it was 1700. The proceeds were used by the unit for re-habilitation and child welfare projects. Re-habilitation is the Auxiliary's biggest project which includes a nine-point program.

Tray favors are sent to a hospital each month with cigarettes attached. The unit sponsors an American essay contest among the schools each year. Yearly the Legion's birthday is observed with a picnic supper followed by a program. March 26, 1959, was its fortieth anniversary.

## The Prophetstown Boosters

The Prophetstown Boosters, organized in 1927, has been one of the community's most influential groups. Its organization has been copied by a number of cities in Illinois.

Although the Boosters are perhaps best known for Kids' Day celebrations and, before that, Rooster Booster Days, their most beneficial contributions to Prophetstown have been activities not widely publicized. They have provided financial support for new business and industry, the State Park, and a multitude of other civic projects.

Outstanding speakers on varied subjects and from all parts of the world have made their annual meeting, held in February of each year, one of the city's highlights. The membership, open to everyone, elects at this meeting 15 members to conduct the affairs of the club. Its financial foundation is provided by contributions from local business men and women.

This group was organized to meet the need of a commercial club, but its age and the high quality of its leadership has gradually forced it to assume paternal responsibilities to the community. The club promotes the varied main street functions designed to stimulate business activity, but more important, it has sponsored or assisted the sponsor of every noteworthy public enterprise for 32 years.

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## **LEONARD MARCY**

## The Tuesday Evening Club

The Tuesday Evening Club is an out-growth of the 'NFSA' (Not for Self Alone) Club, a sewing club organized by Helen Fassett Gentz in October, 1936.

The first officers were: president, Anna Ports; vice president, Helen Gentz; secretary, Margaret Lancaster; treasurer, Berniece Oppendike; reporter, Marian Rosenow; flowers and cards, Joyce Wagenecht.

On Sept. 15, 1938, the NFSA Club reorganized by joining the Federation of Women's Clubs, changing its name to the Prophetstown Junior Women's Club immediately becoming members of the County, District and State Federations.

Mrs. V. R. Olmstead, junior advisor from the Senior Womans Club, assisted in the drawing up of the constitution and by-laws of the newly organized club, with the original club's name retained as a 'motto' for the new club. Colors chosen were pink and the flower, sweet pea.

In April, 1952, the club changed its name to the Tuesday Evening Club because of age limit rules of the Federation and in July, 1953, withdrew its membership in the Federation.

Since that time the Tuesday Evening Club has sponsored Brownie Girl Scouts, made tea towels for the elementary school, helped to support the City Rest Room, given gifts to the Round Grove Nursing Home, purchased American Flags for an organization, given Christmas baskets each year and made substantial donations to the Cancer Fund, Polio drives, Christmas Seals and to families in need.

Over the years, the membership has fluctuated from eleven to thirty.

## The American Legion

The Prophetstown American Legion Post was originally formed on February 2, 1920, at the Dreamland Theatre by a group of veterans of World War I. The group of 29 men elected Dr. Stanley B. LaDue as temporary chairman, later made him their first commander. James B. Mosher was named temporary secretary, and later appointed first adjutant.

A week later the group met with Rev. Woodfin, pastor of the Congregational Church, who spoke to them of their post possibilities. William Setliffe, state organizational officer from Rockford spoke on the proper procedure of organizing. At this meeting 58 men signed the charter and paid dues for the year 1920. Officers elected, other than those previously mentioned, were Hiram O. Warner, vice commander; Elmer E. Johnson, finance officer.

Following World War II the veterans elected Joseph B. Reichard Sr. as commander of the post.

Through loans made by Community residents, the Legion financed the construction of the bowling alley. Ground was broken on June 1, 1948, and the Legion Lanes were opened November 20, 1948.

Automatic pinspotters were added in 1956, making the Legion Lanes one of the finest equipped bowling alleys in northwestern Illinois.

## In Memorium

### WAR OF 1812

#### Riverside Cemetery

John Brown  
N. G. Reynolds  
Jabez Warner

#### Washington Street Cemetery

Hiram Underhill

#### Leon Cemetery

Samuel G. Steadman  
William Siarnes

### MEXICAN WAR

#### Riverside Cemetery

H. T. Kellum

#### Leon Cemetery

Hylon Woodworth

### SPANISH - AMERICAN WAR

#### Riverside Cemetery

Henry W. Adams  
John C. Littell  
Leonard C. Middleton  
C. A. Pense

### CIVIL WAR

#### Riverside Cemetery

Henry Wm. Adams  
Draper Angell  
S. G. Baldwin  
E. L. Ballou  
E. P. Beardslee  
J. D. Beardslee  
E. S. Bentley  
Wm. Blackmore  
Herman Bollen  
Albert Brace  
Wm. Bigham  
Jonathan Brown  
Samuel L. Brown  
T. G. Bryant  
Chas. H. Burdsall  
John W. Clark  
Oscar Clark  
R. N. Clark  
Cyrus Cleaveland



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Morris Dorothy  
Henry Drain  
James E. Frary  
Oakman Gage  
B. R. Garrison  
Charles George  
E. R. Garrison  
Thomas Graham  
Marion Green  
John Hatton  
B. F. Hill  
Frank Howard  
Harvey C. Hull  
J. W. Keefer  
John Keefer  
W. B. Littell  
Edward Lyon  
William Mathis  
J. A. Maxfield  
William McKenzie  
C. J. Merrill  
James Middleton  
John Moore (Confederate soldier)  
Thomas Mulcay  
Geo. F. Needham  
George Olmstead  
Wm. Peckham  
Christian Peterson  
George Potter  
C. O. Pratt  
Milton Isenberg (Conf.)  
William Reed  
John Reed  
John Reynolds  
Lyman Richards  
Gilbert Rogers  
John Rose  
John Sanderson  
Morton Sanderson  
A. F. Shaw  
George Shaw  
Washington Shearer  
Roswell Slater  
James Smith  
Phillip Smith  
Albert Spenser  
J. H. Starrett  
Jerry Stewart  
James Stowell  
Emmett Underhill  
George Warren

#### Sandytown Cemetery

Robert E. Adams  
Potter Benjamin  
Eugene Bessie  
Mark Bisbie  
Jonathan Brown  
Lyman Chase

Charles Dorothy  
Erastus Fuller  
Milo Langdon  
Seih Langdon  
Carlos Martin  
Daniel McNaughton  
Dennis Mendall  
Wm. Norcott  
Geo. Ocoboch  
J. Delos Timmerman  
John Toms

#### Leon Cemetery

John Hopkins  
Elias Kilmer  
Washington Burroughs  
William Lane  
William Lane  
Charles Lane  
Gardner Reynolds  
Edd Beebe  
Harrison Johnson  
Samuel Steadman  
John Mosier  
Gilbert Brimmer  
John Amos Ellsworth  
Leonard Richards  
Harvey Osborne

#### Washington Street Cemetery

Russell Chadwick  
Charles Gage  
Carlos Johnson  
Lyman Shaw

#### WORLD WAR I

#### Riverside Cemetery

Adolph Anderson  
Arvid Anderson  
Harold Beeman  
Chas. H. Burdsall  
William Burdsall  
Richard Doty  
John Drummet  
Leslie Fadden  
Kenneth Gibson  
Harry E. Glass  
Harold Hodge  
Carl E. Johnson  
Robert Lanphere  
Ross Lanphere  
Stanley LaDue  
John Littell  
Walter Marshall  
Frank Martin  
Dr. F. W. Miller  
Edward Morphew  
James Morphew  
Leo Middleton  
Wm. H. Morris  
Cecil J. Murphy  
Clyde Needham  
Otto Olson  
George Osbaugh

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Lester Roth  
Fulton Seeley  
Gail Underhill  
Elmer Varney  
Keith Warner  
Harry Zarr

**Leon Cemetery**

Joe Copeland  
Fern Stewart  
Wm. Leroy Weak  
Jack Woclums  
Henry Blumhoff — Erie  
William Carlson — Meuse —  
Argonne  
A. E. Etnyre — Clinton, Iowa  
Alphonse Hermie — Tampico  
Carl McDougall — Geneseo  
Roy Thompson — Lyndon

**WORLD WAR II**

**Riverside Cemetery**  
D. L. Anderson  
Lester Ackeberg  
Donald Dronenberg  
Paul Dugosh  
Edward Frank Gibson  
Blaine Hannabarger  
Frank Majeski  
Edwin Pearson  
Clarence Sibley Jr.  
Stanley Sturtevant  
Sherman Suddarth  
**Everett Franklin**  
Robert Brooks and Anthony Van  
Rycke lost their lives in the Phil  
ippines.  
Franklin Mathews is buried in  
Luxembourg  
William James — Erie Cemetery

**KOREAN CONFLICT**

**Riverside Cemetery**  
Charles Lindberg  
Earl Sawyer

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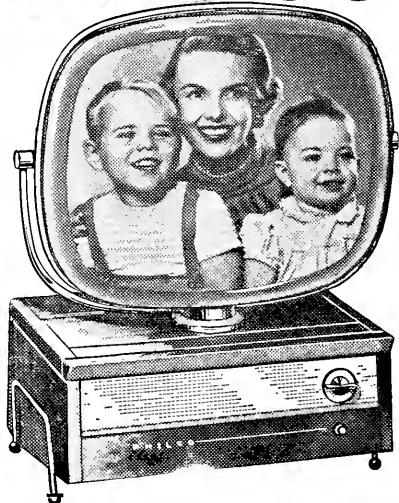
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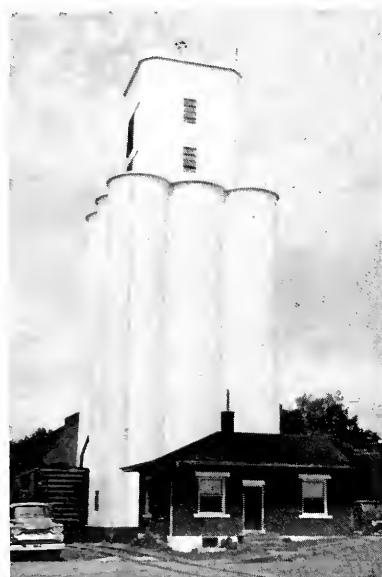
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# Headlines: 1931-1951

*Our silent spy on the mountain now scans the Prophetstown Echo for headline stories of our most recent past. To him the cycle of economic depression, war and prosperity is ageless repetition. To us the headlines of a time within our memory may bring a chuckle or a tear.*



**1931** In January of 1931 the Prophetstown Booster Club held its first community sale. More than five-hundred articles were sold and the total amount received was about \$6,500.

The winter of 1931 was very mild. The temperature reading on January 30 at 7 a.m. was 46 degrees above zero.

In February the newly elected directors of the Whiteside County Service Company, which was being organized by the farmers, met in Morrison and elected officers.

Plans were made by the legion to fix a swimming hole in Coon Creek.

The summer of 1931 was very hot. The ice plant had a difficult time meeting demands. The

heat wave was nation-wide with the temperature at or over 100 degrees for at least two weeks. There was very little rain and water economy was urged. The city well was deepened.

**1933** January 25 the Farmers National Bank takes a holiday along with all others in the nation. Depositors, by agreement, waive 30 percent of their deposits and bank re-opens February 6.

Fifty gallons of bootleg alcohol confiscated by county sheriff was found to be of such good quality that it was purchased by the Morrison and Sterling Hospitals for rubbing purposes. Heavy frost on June 14th. Illinois corn yield averaged 26.5 bushels per acre—lowest in years.



Tragic Flood of 1938

**STANLEY ROBINSON**

**PHYSICIAN & SURGEON**

**L. M. DINGMAN**

**VETERINARIAN**

**DONALD L. SIPE**

**ATTORNEY-AT-LAW**

**VETERINARY CLINIC**

**DRS. MEYER & COPELAND**

**DR. O. M. TOBY, Optometrist**

**PROPHETSTOWN, ILL.**

**1934** Brydia runs for representative of 35th district. Factory is producing 400 mowers per day. 110 pound sturgeon seined at Lyndon. Talk of new highway bridge over river. Mosher and Oppendike steers top Chicago market at \$10.25. 1534 Roosters and 1050 kids appear at Booster Club functions.

**1935** County plans to take the farmers out of the mud—all rural roads to be graveled. Beldin Manufacturing Co. opens. Forty-three Prophetstown families on relief.

**1936** Weather is the big news. Temperature 26 degrees below zero on January 22nd. Heavy snows and 40 m.p.h. winds isolate the community for two days and bob sleds re-appear on main street. The month January 19th to February 19th saw only 4 days in which the temperature failed to fall below zero.

**1938** January 26 Rock River reaches all time high. A 2.48 inch rain on Sunday caused the river to rise to the pump house, 30 inches higher than ever before. Water froze causing many farmers a great loss in stock. Residents were warned not to drink the water even after boiling it. Level of river still climbed until it reached a high of only 11 inches below the window of the pumping station.

Harry Peterson was kidnapped and dumped in Rockford. His abductor was a kind one, however and bought him gas and gave him \$5 at the end of the trip.

City votes bond issue 180-7 in favor of new sewage disposal plant.

**1939** George Brydia takes oath as representative from the 35th district on January 4.

Eclipse announces new super speed mower, the Rocket.



Recognize Our 1939 Tug-O-War Champions?

## **COMPLIMENTS OF**

**Kathryn's Beauty Shop**

**Joe Matthews**

**Thomas O'Leery**

**Shirley's Beauty Shop**

**Perkin's Shoe Repair**

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**Terri's Beauty Shop**

**Jake Klockenga**

**Fix-it-Shop — Harry and Cecil Clementz**

**Robert McKenna**

**Robert Hummel—Painter**

**Lenore's Beauty Shop**

**Ray Schryver—Piano Tuner**

**Donna Blackert—Stanley Products**

Leon Church observes 40th birthday.

Firemen called to Sterling to fight blaze for six hours at the wire mill.

City puts new sewage plant into operation at cost of \$32,000.

Harold Johnson and R. L. Cooper invent new re-fueling devise for airplanes and it was tested successfully in Erie. It was later used in an endurance flight that failed after some 40 hours.

**1940** Mrs. Margaret Fuller, oldest citizen, celebrated her 91st birthday.

High school plans to play six man football, the first time for the sport in many years.

December 3 was recorded as the coldest for that date in the history of the Rock Island district weather bureau as the temperature plunged to 10 degrees below zero.

**1941** Fred Hutchinson, son of Elias and Mary Hutchinson, passed away on March 2, 1941, at the age of ninety-one years. His parents settled here in 1839.

Plat of the J. B. Mosher addition was accepted by the City Council on January 15.

Two hundred people heard Glenn Cunningham at the athletic banquet on March 19th.

On March 26th an announcement was made that football was scheduled for the first time in the Two Rivers Conference.

In April a tornado struck in an area southwest of Prophetstown.

On April 30th the New Defense Bonds were placed on sale for the first time.

On June 11 the oldest landmark, the livery stable, was destroyed by fire. It was believed to have been built in 1870. It had been a stopping place for the old stage coach route which ran from Morrison through Prophetstown to Spring Hill. A route from Genesee connected with it at Spring Hill and the horses were changed there for the return trips in each direction.

On June 11 the first of a series of band concerts was held. Thirty-four members were in the band.

July 30, Echo records a record heat wave with temperatures of 106 in the shade and 120 in the sun. The heat became so extreme at the Eclipse laundry that workmen began at 4 a.m. and quit at noon. The following weeks issue stated electric fans were no longer available as no more could be procured.

On September 24 the Hotel Eureka closed, leaving Prophetstown without a hotel service after having operated for 75 years.



"Look at the Birdie"

**1942** Deposits at Farmers National Bank reach \$1,000,000 for the first time. Sugar rationing begins. Ominous reports of boys lost in the Pacific begin to appear.

**1943** The city and township were quarantined for several weeks for rabies.

The papers for this year were filled with events of World War II. Announcements of issuance of ration books, urging for all citizens to raise victory gardens, demonstrations of food preservation for the results of these back breaking efforts, grocery store deliveries curtailed because of gasoline and tire rationing—and most important, reports of the many young people in the armed forces.

**1944** Town was quarantined February 23 for fever.

**1945** Community High School district formed. Eight Mile community struck by destructive tornado. War's end observed quietly and gratefully with informal ceremony on main street.

**1951** It was during the breaking up of the ice in February of 1951 that the power line was threatened. The pier in the river bearing the utilities tower was tilted by the weight of the moving ice.

The Lutheran Church purchased the former Albert Field house located on the corner of Locust and West 3rd Streets.

Ralph Williams Clark, a native son of Prophetstown and dean of the College of Pharmacy of the University of Oklahoma, was listed in the 1951 "Who's Who".

On Sunday, September 19, 1951, Bishop Magee of Chicago gave the morning sermon at the Methodist Church in observance of its 115th anniversary.

A View From Thunderbolt

by

Helen Ariens  
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Dorothy Carlock  
Lela Chapin  
Rev. Fr. Robert P. Donovan  
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# Conclusion

The history of any city is the history of individual lives and accomplishments attained through singular effort or through activities of religious, political, or social groups.

Soon after we began writing this book, it became apparent that we could not compile a history of Prophetstown. This would have required a biographical sketch of every person, family, or group which has contributed to the success of our city. It was at this point that we determined to sketch the life or contribution of none of our people. Had we begun work on the book in 1950 this might have been possible.

So, a history it is not; a centennial souvenir, we hope it is,

We know that there are events, names, and places which are not mentioned and ought to have been. You may be assured that if we knew where these omissions were, they would not be omissions. None are intentional.

Looking back a hundred years has been pleasant for us. As we complete the book we naturally begin to look to the future. A hundred years from now we will have Thunderbolt, but the view will have changed. The life most important to us—our own—will be fortunate to have attained the stature of a memory. But we are sure that all of the lives, remembered or not, will continue to broaden THE VIEW FROM THUNDERBOLT.

The Book Committee

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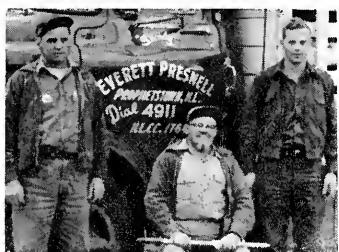
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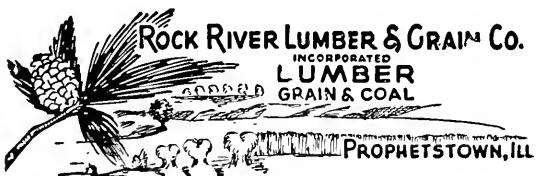


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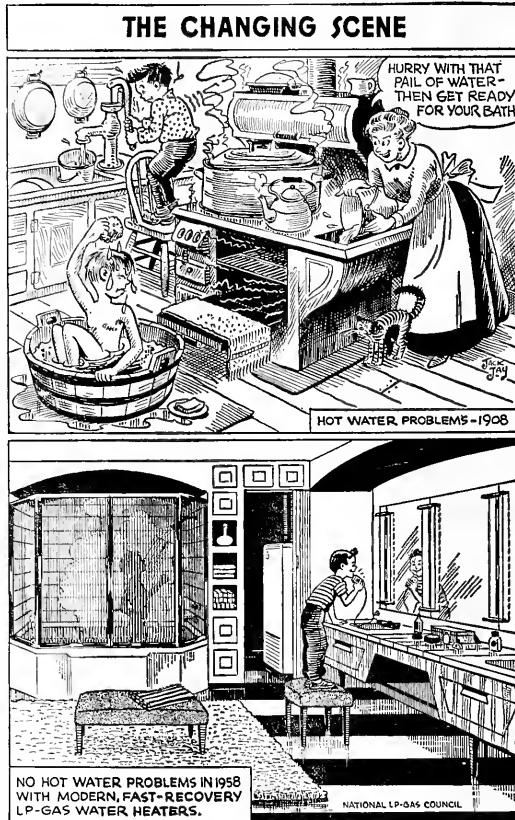
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